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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	19 February 2024
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	5711/24
Subject:	European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 22/2023 entitled "Offshore renewable energy in the EU: Ambitious plans for growth but sustainability remains a challenge" - Council conclusions (19 February 2024)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 22/2023 entitled "Offshore renewable energy in the EU: Ambitious plans for growth but sustainability remains a challenge", as approved by the Foreign Affairs Council at its meeting held on 19 February 2024.

Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 22/2023 entitled “Offshore renewable energy in the EU – Ambitious plans for growth but sustainability remains a challenge”.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:

1. THANKS the European Court of Auditors for the Special Report 22/2023 entitled "Offshore renewable energy in the EU – Ambitious plans for growth but sustainability remains a challenge".
2. RECOGNISES the focus of the Special Report on offshore renewable energy in the European Union.
3. RECALLS that the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament have recently agreed on most of the legislation under the ‘Fit for 55’ package, setting the framework for the implementation of the Union's 2030 climate and energy targets; and in this context HIGHLIGHTS the revisions of the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Renewable Energy Directive including as regards the provisions on facilitating permit-granting for joint offshore renewable energy projects¹.
4. RECALLS the importance of offshore renewable energy to contribute to achieve the Unions climate objectives, competitive energy prices and a resilient energy supply in Europe.

¹ Article 1(4)(b) of Directive (EU) 2023/2413 amending directive 2018/2001 to add a paragraph 7a in article 9

5. HIGHLIGHTS the different non-binding agreements to cooperate on goals for offshore renewable generation to be deployed within each sea basin by 2050 with intermediate steps in 2040 and 2030² concluded pursuant to Article 14(1) of the TEN-E Regulation³. The combined figures give an overall ambition of installing approximately 111 GW of offshore renewable generation capacity by the end of this decade.
6. TAKES NOTE of the ongoing discussions in respect of the different EU sea basins as well as the most recent declarations and joint statements on some sea basins that further increase the ambitions⁴ and identify actions to deliver ambitions⁵.
7. LOOKS FORWARD to the upcoming Cross-Border Cost Allocation Guidance and European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity high level strategic integrated offshore network development plan for each sea-basin as required by the TEN-E, as part of each ten-year network development plan cycle.
8. ACKNOWLEDGES the importance of the National Energy and Climate Plans set by the Member States for reaching the different objectives
9. TAKES good note of the observations, conclusions and recommendations in the Special Report; including the need to address the different challenges in a structural way, and in particular the call for accelerated coordinated sustainable deployment of offshore renewable energy.

² Non-binding agreements of January 19 2023 on goals for offshore renewable generation in 2050 with intermediate steps in 2040 and 2030 for priority offshore grid pursuant to Article 14(1) of the TEN-E Regulation (EU) 2022/869 for respectively the Northern Seas offshore grids (NSOG); the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan offshore grids (BEMIP offshore); the South and West offshore grids (SW offshore); the Atlantic offshore grids and the South and East offshore grids (SE offshore)

³ Regulation (EU) 2022/869 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2022 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, amending Regulations (EC) No 715/2009, (EU) 2019/942 and (EU) 2019/943 and Directives 2009/73/EC and (EU) 2019/944, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 (OJ L 152, 3.6.2022, p. 45).

⁴ E.g. [Esbjerg Declaration](#), [Marienborg Declaration](#), the [NSEC Joint Statement](#) the [Ostend Declaration](#), et all,

⁵ E.g. [NSEC Action Agenda](#), [Porto Ministerial Declaration of the Atlantic Sea-Basin Strategy](#), et all.