THE NORTH SEA SUMMIT
OSTEND 24TH APRIL 2023.

PRACTICAL GUIDE

Photo: BelgaImage

ABOUT US AND OUR FUTURE.

Dear friends,

Our reality in Europe has been profoundly changed over the past year.

While we have always strived for peace and prosperity, war and destruction have now invaded our continent.

Russia's illegal war against Ukraine has devastated the lives of millions of Ukrainians.
It has shaken and continues to shake our democratic values.
It opened our eyes to our dependence on others and in the first place our energy dependency.
It has shown us the human cost that this dependence can have for our countries and our citizens.

When faced with a wall that is blocking your way, you have two options. Continue to move headlong straight at it. Or build an alternative path.

The war in Ukraine has been a wake-up call for Europe and our energy future. Today, we are taking our destiny back into our own hands.

We have a plan. Our plan aims at tackling all our challenges: protecting the purchasing power of our citizens, accelerating our energy transition, strengthening our industry and reinforcing European technological leadership in the future. This North Sea Coalition that we started building in Denmark in Esbjerg and which we will strengthen in Ostend is an effective response to our continent's energy challenges.
A "new" path to our energy future.

By combining our strengths and knowledge, we have the ambition to build the world's largest energy plant in the North Sea.

To produce large quantities of carbon-neutral energy whose production costs can be controlled, which will benefit all the households in our continent and which will anchor the innovation and job creation of thousands of companies in our countries.

This ambition will support the strengthening of our technological leadership and the transformation of European companies into global champions of offshore technologies: the icing on the cake.

For all these reasons, I am proud to be European.
For all these reasons, I am proud to welcome you to Ostend to write a new page in our shared history in Europe.

Alexander De Croo

THE SUMMIT.

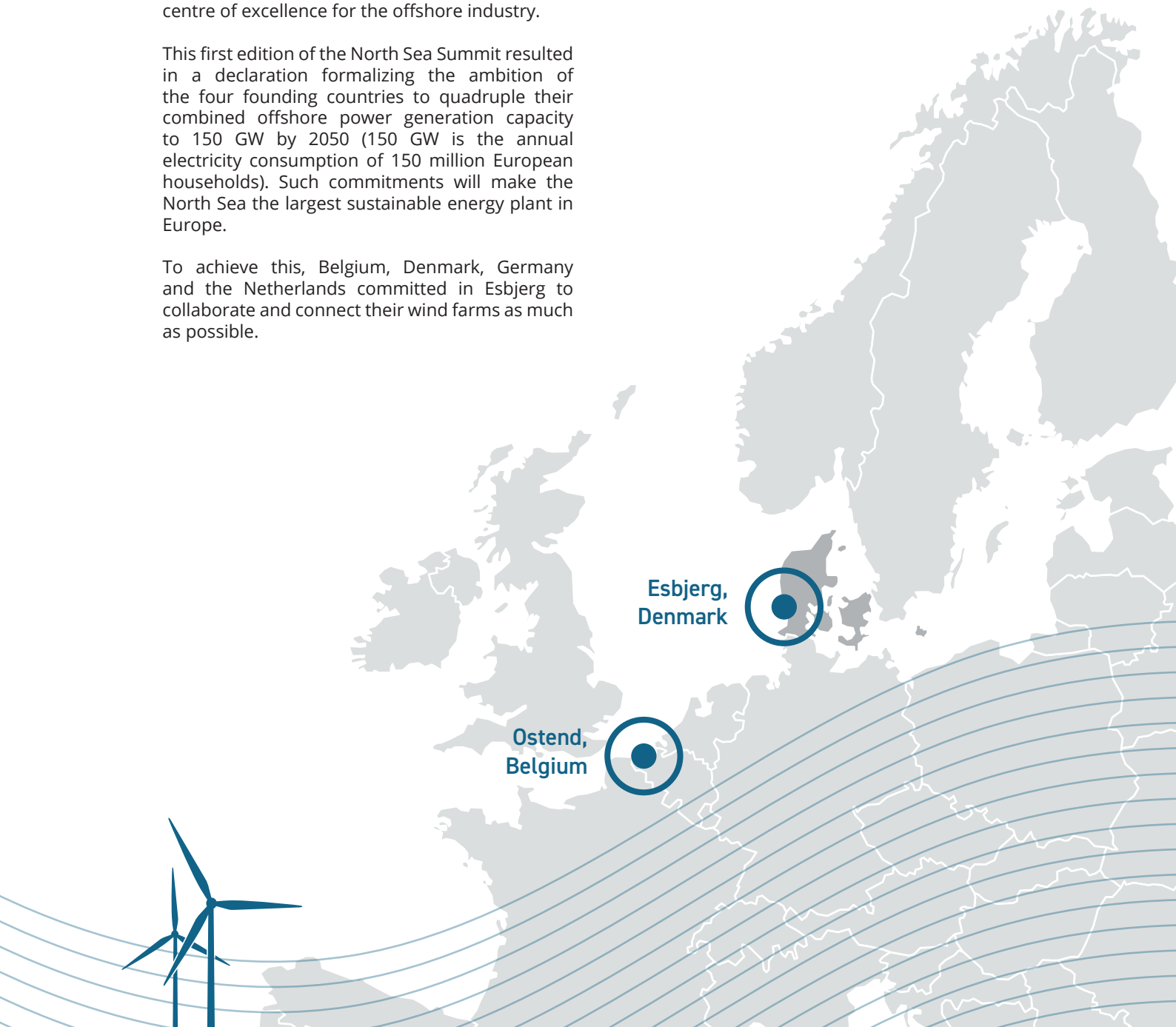
In the flow of Esbjerg

The North Sea Summit II follows in the footsteps of the first edition of the North Sea Summit held in May 2022 in Esbjerg, Denmark. At the time, the consequences of the war in Ukraine were beginning to be felt in the energy market. Belgium, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands came together to form the "North Sea Coalition" and to coordinate their actions to combat dependence on gas and fossil fuels.

The choice for Esbjerg was no accident, since the coastal town is known all over the world as a centre of excellence for the offshore industry.

This first edition of the North Sea Summit resulted in a declaration formalizing the ambition of the four founding countries to quadruple their combined offshore power generation capacity to 150 GW by 2050 (150 GW is the annual electricity consumption of 150 million European households). Such commitments will make the North Sea the largest sustainable energy plant in Europe.

To achieve this, Belgium, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands committed in Esbjerg to collaborate and connect their wind farms as much as possible.



An XXL Summit

The second North Sea Summit will take place in the heart of the Port of Ostend. In addition to the founding countries of Belgium, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, the North Sea Summit II in Ostend will also bring together France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Norway and Luxembourg. This is the largest ever coalition around energy in the North Sea.

This Summit's ambition is high: further expand the collective ambition to harness the full energy and industrial potential of the North Sea and make it the largest powerhouse of Europe by 2050. In total, our countries have more than 175,000 kilometres of coastline.

Beyond the challenge of multiplying this production by including the efforts of the France, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Norway to the objectives set in Esbjerg, the other issue of the North Sea Summit II will be the transmission of this electricity. We need to make sure that this power arrives safely at our shores, i.e. on the continent and in the homes of Europeans. And ensure that all our fellow citizens, from Biarritz to Tromso via London, Amsterdam, Dublin, Berlin and Copenhagen benefit from this initiative.

From resilience to opportunities

As in Esbjerg, the North Sea Summit II will bring together the Heads of State and Government of the countries present, their Energy Ministers, the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and a delegation of some 100 business leaders and industrial players from the energy sector and our countries.

This makes the summit an example of geopolitical resilience but also a springboard for our industry, for European innovation.

The offshore industry today weighs thousands of jobs in Europe. The commitments made in Esbjerg and Ostend will only strengthen the opportunities to create additional thousands of them.

A final, critical subject at the agenda in Ostend: the question of the safety and security of our offshore energy infrastructure, our offshore wind farms and the cables that connect them.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION.

Belgium has set a clear energy target: it wants to achieve 100% renewable energy and climate neutrality by 2050. As the European continent is facing a war, Belgium has decided to accelerate its energy independence, especially when it comes to fossil fuels by focusing on renewable energies and taking control over its short term energy needs through the prolongation 2 nuclear power plants for 10 years.

Green electricity for all Belgians

Fries, chocolates, and beer. These are perhaps the first words that come to mind when you mention Belgium. But we are proud to add another national asset to the list: offshore wind.

Undoubtedly, Belgium is a pioneer in offshore wind energy. In recent years, our country has become the second country in the world in terms of offshore capacity per capita, behind Denmark but ahead of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Germany. Belgian wind farms in the North Sea currently produce 2.26 GW of offshore energy.

The objective set by the Belgian authorities is to triple this production by 2030 to reach 6 GW. It will then be possible to supply every Belgian household with electricity generated in the North Sea with a further expansion to 8 GW scheduled by 2040.

In addition, Belgium has decided to install its first experimental floating solar infrastructure in its existing wind parks, to further optimize the potential of our North Sea.

Belgian companies are now recognized worldwide for their expertise in the area of offshore wind power. Flagship companies such as Deme, Parkwind, Elicio, Jan de Nul, Otary or GeoXYZ to name but a few have been awarded contracts to build large offshore wind farms around the world; from Japan to the United States via Scotland or France.

Thanks to the contribution from the European recovery plan, Belgium can also boast a world first: by 2026, it will have built the very first energy island in the North Sea connecting its own wind farms and interconnections before sending power to the mainland.

Photo: Belgaimage

Photo: Belgalmage

Hydrogen for our jobs and industry

In addition to green wind energy produced in the North Sea, Belgium is now ramping up its hydrogen ambitions. This should promote the ecological transition of our heavy industry. In support of this move, Belgium adopted its first federal hydrogen strategy in October 2021.

This strategy is based on 4 pillars and aims to position Belgium at the heart of the European hydrogen industry by focusing on the same assets that have allowed it to play a key role in the European LNG industry in recent decades: a central position, world-class ports (Antwerp and Zeebrugge) and the deployment of a pipeline network capable of supplying a large part of Europe.

At the same time, the aim is to position Belgium as a pioneer in hydrogen technologies for example through electrolysers with a company like John Cockerill and to create a robust hydrogen market by implementing an open-access hydrogen backbone and encouraging the various stakeholders (industries, regions, neighbouring countries and exporting third countries) to join forces and know-how.

Thanks to hydrogen, European industry will succeed in its energy transition while controlling its costs, which is crucial for sectors such as steel, glass, aluminium, plastics and cement.

Nuclear power to boost our independence

As the European continent is facing a war, Belgium has decided to accelerate its energy independence, especially when it comes to fossil fuels by focusing on renewable energies and taking control over its short term energy needs through the prolongation of the Doel 4 and Tihange 3 nuclear power plants for 10 years. This extension involves the creation of a new company in which the Belgian State will be a 50% shareholder alongside Engie. This will secure the production of 2GW of energy per year between 2025 and 2035.

In light of the geopolitical context and with the strategic autonomy in mind Belgium intends to take advantage of all the nuclear expertise that has been developed historically in our country by furthering our research into a new generation of small modular reactors (SMRs) which offer considerable advantages: they are deemed to be safer, smaller and modular. A budget of EUR 100 million has been made available to SCK CEN to continue research in this area, enabling Belgium to secure a position in a future technology that will help strengthening our independence from fossil fuels and contribute to Belgium's objective of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

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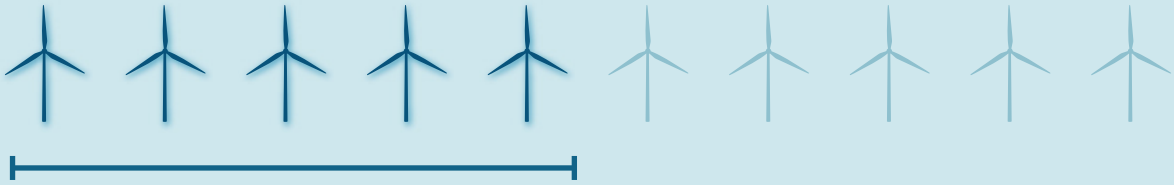
OFFSHORE INDUSTRY IN EUROPE.

European wind turbine manufacturers have **42% share** of the global market for wind turbines



Of the **10 biggest wind turbine manufacturers** in the world, **5 are EU-based.**

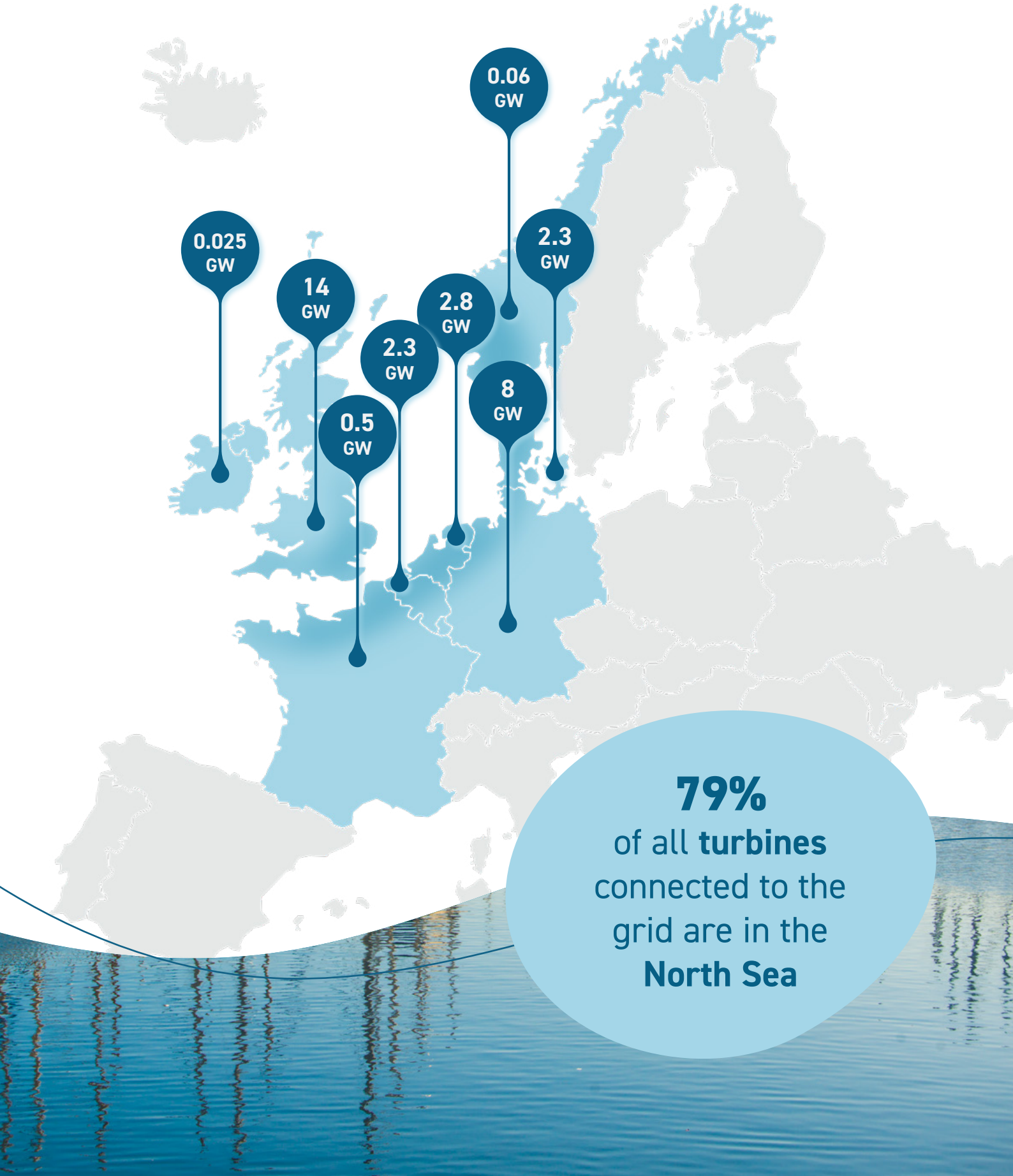
Wind energy represented

300,000 jobs

in the EU in 2019

248 manufacturing sites of wind energy components in Europe

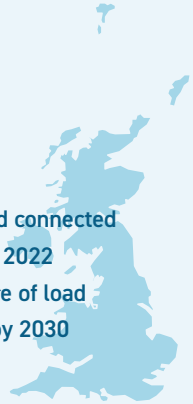
POWER CAPACITY (GW) IN EUROPE IN 2022.



79%
of all **turbines** connected to the grid are in the **North Sea**

OFFSHORE INDUSTRY IN EUROPE, PER COUNTRY.

UNITED KINGDOM



45 wind farms grid connected
14 GW capacity in 2022
15% offshore share of load
Objective 50 GW by 2030

BELGIUM

9 wind farms grid connected
2.3 GW capacity in 2022
8% offshore share of load
Objective 6 GW by 2030

NETHERLANDS

8 wind farms grid connected
2.8 GW capacity in 2022
7% offshore share of load
Objective 21.5 GW by 2030

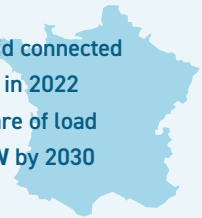
GERMANY

30 wind farms grid connected
8 GW capacity in 2022
5% offshore share of load
Objective 30 GW by 2030

LUXEMBOURG

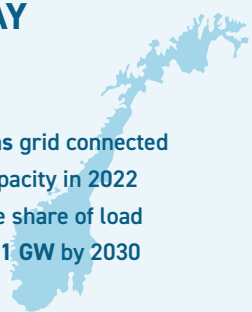
Luxembourg plans to contribute significantly through cooperation on cross-border projects

FRANCE



2 wind farms grid connected
0.5 GW capacity in 2022
n/a offshore share of load
Objective 6.8 GW by 2030

NORWAY



3 wind farms grid connected
0.06 GW capacity in 2022
n/a offshore share of load
Objective 3.1 GW by 2030

DENMARK

15 wind farms grid connected
2.3 GW capacity in 2022
25% offshore share of load
Objective n/a by 2030

IRELAND

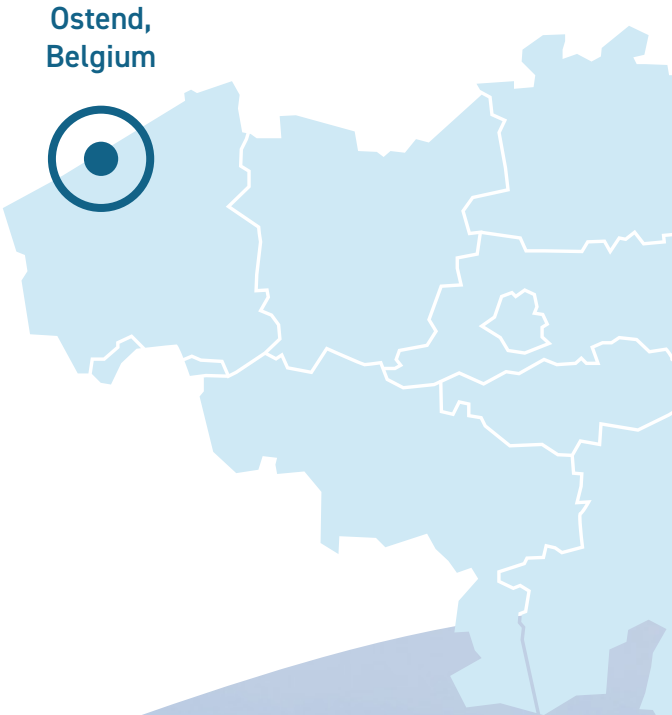
1 wind farm grid connected
0.025 GW capacity in 2022
n/a offshore share of load
Objective n/a by 2030

MORE ABOUT...

Ostend

The Port of Ostend is situated in Europe's busiest maritime area. If Belgium plays a leading role in the field of renewable energy at sea today, it is partially thanks to all the efforts made by Ostend. The city plays a pioneering role in the blue economy, especially in the domain of offshore wind energy. Ostend functions as a logistic offshore wind hub for the southern part of the North Sea. International top companies active in construction, maintenance and operation of this energy production operate from Ostend. At the same time, Ostend is a breeding ground for knowledge and innovation. The maritime test platform Blue accelerator focuses on research and testing of new technologies such as drones, floating solar panels, aquaculture,... With the local presence of numerous research institutions, the Belgian North Sea is perhaps one of the most studied sea areas in the world.

Ostend has more or less 72.000 inhabitants of 130 nationalities and a surface of 37,7km². It is the main city at the Belgian coastline and its population keeps growing. Tourism is one of the economical strengths of the city. Except the sea as one of its major attractors, Ostend has lots of other highlights in art (painters Ensor and Spilliaert), culture, leisure, sports, and nature.



Fort Napoleon

Fort Napoleon, completed in 1813, has seen hundreds of years of history and is one of the best preserved forts built during the French annexation of the Netherlands. During the Napoleonic era, the coastal area between Den Helder (NL) and Boulogne-sur-Mer (FR) forms a single region that is an extension of the French coastline. For the construction of forts, the Imperial Corps of Engineers experiments with completely new concepts, based on polygonal systems of fortification. Today, Fort Napoleon is the only remnant of the ring of forts that the French intended to build around the city of Ostend.

Fort Napoleon has a turbulent history, marked by a gradual decrease in military importance, leading to a long period in which the abandoned fort was allowed to deteriorate.

During the last 20 years however, Fort Napoleon has seen a return to its former glory. Today it is a place where hundreds of years of history come to life in a story trail. It is a place where visitors can gather and enjoy a widely varying range of experiences, expositions and events, with respect for the Fort's monumental character and its surroundings.

The Princess Elisabeth Island

The Princess Elisabeth Island will be located almost 45 km off the Belgian coast and will serve as the link between the offshore wind farms in the second offshore wind zone (which will have a maximum capacity of 3.5 GW) and its onshore high-voltage grid. The energy island will also be the first building block of a European offshore electricity grid that will serve as a central hub for new interconnectors with the UK and Denmark.

The island is a feat of innovation and a world first that once again puts Belgium on the map as a pioneer in offshore energy. The construction of the island is due to start in 2024 and the island should be completed in mid-2026. From then on, the construction of the electrical infrastructure on the energy island will start. Elia, the Belgian system operator for Electricity, aims to achieve full connection capacity by 2030.

The Princess Elisabeth island is an important step in the extension of the European electricity grid at sea. It will directly participate in the realization Europe's climate ambitions, which will be at least 300 GW of offshore wind power by 2050.
Elia Group is a key player in electricity transmission. The company supply 30 million end users with electricity and manage 19,192 km of high-voltage links via its subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and northern and eastern Germany (50Hertz), making Elia Group one of the 5 largest grid operators in Europe.

PROGRAM.

15.30 — 16.00	ARRIVALS
16.00 — 16.45	VISIT ON SITE / OPENING OF THE NORTH SEA CONFERENCE
17.00 — 18.00	PRESS STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
18.00 — 19.00	SIGNING CEREMONY AND PRESS STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTERS OF ENERGY AND EU COMMISSIONER SIMSON
19.00	CLOSING OF THE NORTH SEA CONFERENCE
19.30 — 20.45	CLOSED DINNER

PARTNERS.


economie
FPS Economy, S.M.E.s, Self-employed and Energy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MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT


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