

【欧州】 【Common】

Common - Environmental Issues/Maritime Issues - Offshore wind power generation: The REPowerEU Plan to rapidly reduce the EU' s dependency on Russian fossil fuels and the green transition with wind power - the Nord Sea Summit

Andrea Antolini Former Researcher JTTRI

【概要 : Summary】

The Russian invasion in the Ukraine in February 2022 and the EU Member States' decision to reduce and abolish their dependency from Russian fossil fuels makes the transformation of the EU' s energy system towards renewable energies an issue of even greater urgency. In fact, this new geostrategic and situation has added a political urgency to the environmental necessity to rapidly replace fossil fuels with renewable energy sources, as based on the European Green Deal' s target to reach climate neutrality and net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. In this new geopolitical reality, the EU will have to significantly accelerate the implementation of all "Fit for 55" proposals and higher targets for renewables to reach the energy system' s transition towards the abolition of fossil fuels. Furthermore, the EU' s gas consumption will have to be reduced at a faster pace, and at the same time, the EU will have to reconsider and limit the role of gas as a transitional fuel towards climate neutrality.

On 8 March 2022, the European Commission presented its first outline of the REPowerEU Plan to make the EU independent from Russian fossil

fuels before 2030. Thereafter, at the European Council on 24-25 March 2022, the EU' s heads of state and government asked the European Commission to elaborate a detailed REPowerEU Plan. On 18 May 2022, the European Commission presented a detailed REPowerEU Plan, which includes a set of actions to save energy, diversify supplies, to quickly substitute fossil fuels by renewable energies to accelerating Europe' s clean energy transition and to smartly combine investments and reforms. The REPowerEU Plan highlights the importance of diversification of energy imports and smart investment as well as the substitution of fossil fuels, besides the need of saving energy in general. The REPowerEU Plan also points out the role of offshore wind power generation in the envisaged energy transition and considers how to reduce and substitute fossil fuels in the transport sector.

This article focuses on the proposed action to quickly substitute fossil fuels by diversifying the supplies and to accelerating Europe' s clean energy transition. As one example the North Sea Summit for the expansion of offshore wind energy production in the North Sea is presented.

【記事 : Article】

1. Background of the introduction of the REPowerEU Plan

The EU imports 90% of its gas consumption, out of which Russia provides around 45% and Russia also supplies around 27% of oil imports and 46% of the EU's coal imports (European Commission 2022b, COM/2022/108 final). However, in the past years, the availability of relatively cheap Russian oil and natural gas to the EU has also hampered efforts to achieve a quick shift towards renewable energies. The continued dependence from Russian fossil fuel imports also tied up financial resources that could have been spent on renewable energies.

In July 2021, the Commission presented its “Fit for 55” package for revising legislation related to GHG emissions, based on the European Climate law (Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 (‘European Climate Law’)), which aims at achieving a 55% reduction of GHG emissions by 2030 on the path towards climate neutrality and net-zero GHG emissions to be reached by 2050. The target of the European Green Deal to make Europe climate neutral by 2050 is included in the European Climate Law (Regulation (EU) 2021/1119) and also the 55% GHG emission reduction by 2030 are set for climate change-related reasons. However, the Russian invasion and war in the Ukraine has changed fundamentally and irrevocably the view on the dependence on Russian fossil fuels and it has added a political and strategical dimension to the transition of the EU's energy system towards renewable energies. The dependence on Russian fossil fuels has become a liability and the high amounts paid by some of the European Member States for Russian fossil fuels, almost €100 billion per year, are seen as payments for the Russia war

against Ukraine (European Commission 2022d). The Russian war in Ukraine has shown the interdependencies between achieving the target of a green strategic autonomy for Europe's energy supply and at the need to become independent from foreign fossil fuels (European Council 2022a, European Council 2022b). While the Green Deal was not originally prepared as a peace- and security-building instrument, the Ukraine conflict has shown the interdependencies between achieving the Green Deal's target of an energy supply based on renewables and at the need to become independent from Russian fossil fuel imports (European Council 2022a, European Council 2022b).

Considering the current situation of energy dependency and the EU's future energy security, the EU is to adhere the objective of the Green Deal, to boosting renewables like new wind and solar projects and to increase energy efficiency as fast as technically possible, and to fully implement the EU's Fit for 55 proposals, as this alone would lower the EU's natural gas consumption by 23% by 2030, according to the Commission (European Commission 2022b).

In short-term, the EU's supplies need to be diversified, by using LNG and by developing biogas sources. The hydrogen market in Europe needs to be further developed. The development of renewables and the production of their key components, as well as streamlining authorisation procedures to accelerating energy projects need to be considered (European Council 2022a).

Therefore, the European Commission presented the Communication “REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy” (COM/2022/108 final) on 8 March 2022, to outline the REPowerEU plan to reduce the dependence from Russian gas as soon as possible and to accelerate the progress towards a clean, secure, and competitive energy system (European Commission 2022c).

In their Versailles Declaration of 11 March 2022, the heads of state or government invited the Commission to propose a REPowerEU plan by the end of May 2022 (European Council 2022a, European Council 2022b). At the European Council, the heads of state or government underlined that they were looking “...forward to the comprehensive and ambitious plan, elaborated in close coordination with Member States, that the Commission will submit to this effect by the end of May 2022 “ (European Council 2022c).

Accordingly, the European Commission presented the REPowerEU Plan on 18 May 2022, as well as a Recommendation, presenting additional guidance on fast-tracking the permissions for renewable energy projects, addressing the key barriers and good practice solutions to tackle them.

2. The REPowerEU Plan’ s objectives, measures, and financing

The new geopolitical realities caused by the Russian invasion in Ukraine forces the EU to become independent from Russian imports of fossil fuels as quickly as possible. At the same time, the EU Member States’ decision on ending this dependency needs to adhere the target of achieving sustainability and to achieve the net-zero GHG emissions target by 2050, as set in the European Green Deal (European Commission 2022b). In fact, the new geopolitical situation will force the EU to achieve a fast implementation of all “Fit for 55 “ proposals and higher targets for renewables and energy efficiency. In this new reality, the EU’ s gas consumption will have to be reduced at a faster pace, and it will limit the role of gas as a transitional fuel (COM(2022) 230 final).

At the European Council meeting of 24 and 25 March 2022, the heads of state or government agreed that the EU would fully phase out its dependency on Russian gas, oil, and coal imports as soon as possible and asked the European Commission to

develop a comprehensive and ambitious plan by the end of May 2022. Accordingly, on 18 May 2022, the European Commission presented the REPowerEU plan (COM (2022) 230 final), the “Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. REPowerEU Plan {SWD(2022) 230 final} “ (COM(2022) 230 final).

The REPowerEU Plan builds on the “Fit for 55” Package of achieving at least a reduction of -55% net GHG emissions by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050, based on the European Green Deal. The aim is to accelerate the green transition and to joining forces to achieve a more resilient energy system and a true Energy Union. The main measures under the Plan are saving energy, diversifying energy supplies, to quickly substituting fossil fuels and to smartly combining investments and reforms (European Commission 2022d). Furthermore, the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency COM(2022) 222 final of 18 May 2022 also raises the targets for energy efficiency and renewable energy to 13% and 45% respectively (COM (2022) 222 final).

According to the REPowerEU Plan, the EU can significantly reduce its dependency on Russian fossil fuels already in 2022, and accelerate the energy transition, building on the “Fit for 55 “ package of proposals and completing the actions on energy security of supply and storage. In addition, the REPowerEU Plan mentions a set of actions to save energy, diversify supplies, to quickly substitute fossil fuels by accelerating Europe’ s clean energy transition and smartly combine investments and reforms (COM(2022) 230 final). According to the REPowerEU Plan, this

combination of actions will structurally transform EU's energy system. However, to achieve this target, it will require to effectively coordinate European regulatory and infrastructure measures, as well as national investment and reforms and joined-up energy diplomacy (COM(2022) 230 final). On the demand side, the consumption of energy needs to be reduced and industrial processes will have to be transformed to replace gas, oil and coal with renewable electricity and fossil-free hydrogen (COM(2022) 230 final). The European Commission calls on Member States, regional and local authorities, and also every citizen and business, to reduce Europe's energy dependence from Russia through the implementation of this REPowerEU Plan. The REPowerEU Plan intends to accelerate diversification and the use of more renewable gases, energy savings and electrification to deliver as soon as possible the equivalent of the Russian fossil fuels, imported by EU Member States every year.

Regarding the financing of the REPowerEU Plan, it will require an additional investment of EUR 210 billion between now and 2027, on top of what is already needed to realise the objectives of the "Fit for 55" package. On the other hand, the implementation of the "Fit for 55" framework and the REPowerEU Plan are expected to save the EU EUR 80 billion in gas import expenditures, EUR 12 billion in oil import expenditures and EUR 1.7 billion in coal import expenditures per year by 2030 (European Commission 2022d).

The Commission intends to finance the REPowerEU objectives with a mix of national and EU funding sources as well as private funding. At EU level, the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is the main financial tool for the REPowerEU Plan implementation. EUR 225 billion in loans is already available to help finance REPowerEU objectives and may be requested up until 31 August 2023 (European Commission 2022d). In addition,

the RRF envelope will be increased by EUR 20 billion from the auctioning of the EU-ETS allowances. The Commission will also offer higher flexibility for Member States to transfer resources to the RRF from other funds (European Commission 2022d).

3. The REPowerEU Plan's approach to reduce fossil fuel imports from Russia, and to support offshore wind generation

A massive acceleration and upscaling in renewable energy in power generation, industry, buildings, and transport will be necessary to phasing out the European dependency on Russian fossil fuels. At the same time, the EU will have to adhere its GHG emission reduction targets set in the European Green deal and the European Climate Law. To serve both, the ecological targets and the new geopolitical realities, the European Commission proposes to boost renewable energy and to increase the target in the revised Renewable Energy Directive to 45% by 2030, up from 40% in last year's proposal. This would bring the total renewable energy generation capacities to 1236 GW by 2030, in comparison to 1067 GW by 2030 envisaged under "Fit for 55" Package (COM(2022) 230 final).

Regarding solar photovoltaics (PV) technology the Commission sets the REPowerEU target to more than 320 GW of solar photovoltaic newly installed by 2025, and almost 600 GW by 2030. As part of the increased ambition for solar, the Commission also presented the EU solar strategy of 18 May 2022 (COM(2022) 221). Furthermore, the REPowerEU Plan mentions wind energy, in particular offshore wind, as a significant future opportunity. Offshore wind power generation represents a stable and abundant resource of renewable energy. It is the REPowerEU plan's ambition to deploy the wind energy faster, to strengthen the supply chains and to drastically accelerate the permitting procedures (COM(2022) 230 final).

Regarding the need to speeding up the permitting process and innovation, the current slow and complex permitting process is a key obstacle to unleashing the renewables revolution and to increasing the competitiveness of the renewable energy industry. Obtaining a permit can take up to 9 years for wind projects, and up to 4.5 years for ground-mounted solar projects (COM(2022) 230 final). Varying permitting times between EU Member States demonstrate that national rules and administrative capacities complicate and slow down the permitting processes. Therefore, on 18 May 2022, the European Commission presented in parallel to the REPowerEU Plan, a Recommendation (C (2022) 3219) on speeding up permit-granting procedures for renewable energy projects and facilitate Power Purchase Agreements, C(2022) 3219, SWD(2022) 149, (18.05.2022) (COM(2022) 230 final). The Commission Recommendation (C (2022) 3219) on speeding up permit-granting procedures for renewable energy projects and facilitate Power Purchase Agreements, C(2022) 3219, SWD(2022) 149, (18.05.2022). (COM(2022) 230 final) presents measures to streamline procedures at national level. It recommends participatory approaches that involve local and regional authorities and providing authorities with the necessary resources to facilitate the timely realisation of locally adapted investments.

Regarding the offshore wind power generation, the latest High-Level Summit hosted by Member States, like the North Sea Summit in Denmark, is expected to also enhance investment in cross-border wind parks and renewable projects.

To strengthen the supply chains for solar, wind and heat pump technologies and make them more sustainable, the Commission will enhance the regulatory framework and ensure life-cycle sustainability COM(2022) 230 final. The Commission intends to table, in the first quarter of 2023, eco-design and energy labelling

requirements for solar PVs, and by revising existing requirements for heat pumps.

The Commission will support Member States' efforts to pool their public resources via potential Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) focused on solar and wind energy and heat pumps technologies and value chains (COM(2022) 230 final).

Furthermore, the Commission intends to accelerate the deployment of hydrogen and the replacement of natural gas, coal and oil in hard-to-decarbonise industries and transport by renewable hydrogen (COM(2022) 230 final). The REPowerEU Plan sets a 10 million tonnes of domestic renewable hydrogen production target and 10 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen imports by 2030 (COM(2022) 230 final). The Commission also calls upon the European Parliament and the Council to align the sub-targets for renewable fuels of non-biological origin under the Renewable Energy Directive for industry and transport with the REPowerEU ambition (75% for industry and 5% for transport) and to rapidly conclude the revision of the Hydrogen and Gas Market package (COM(2022) 230 final). Accelerated efforts are needed to deploy hydrogen infrastructure for producing, importing, and transporting 20 million tonnes of hydrogen by 2030. The Commission will support the development of three major hydrogen import corridors via the Mediterranean, the North Sea area and, as soon as conditions allow, with Ukraine (COM(2022) 230 final).

Furthermore, for boosting sustainable biomethane production, the estimated investment needs amount to EUR 37 billion (SWD/2022/230 final). As outlined in the Biomethane Action Plan in the accompanying staff working document SWD/2022/230 final, the Commission proposes to address the main barriers to increased sustainable biomethane production and use and its integration into the EU internal gas market. The focus should be on sustainable production, ensuring that biomethane

is produced from organic waste and forest and agricultural residues, to avoid impacts on land use and food security (COM(2022) 230 final).

Regarding the reduction of fossil consumption in the transport sector, electrification can be combined with the use of fossil-free hydrogen to replace fossil fuels. To enhance energy savings and efficiencies in the transport sector and accelerate the transition towards zero-emission vehicles, the Commission will consider a proposal for a legislation to increase the share of zero emission vehicles in public and corporate car fleets above a certain size (COM(2022) 230 final). The Commission also calls on the European Parliament and the Council to swiftly adopt the pending proposals on alternative fuels and other transport related files supporting green mobility (COM(2022) 230 final).

Furthermore, the European Commission will adopt in 2023 a legislative package on greening freight transport (European Commission 2022a). The Greening of Freight Package aims to significantly increase energy efficiency in the sector. The EU Save Energy Communication also includes many recommendations to cities, regions and national authorities that can effectively contribute to the substitution of fossil fuels in the transport sector (European Commission 2022a).

Furthermore, the proposal on the revision of the 2018 Renewable Energy Directive with its Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652 (COM(2021) 557 final), as part of the “Fit for 55” Package supports an acceleration of permitting procedures for

renewable energy projects and related infrastructure (COM(2021) 557 final).

Moreover, the European Commission also calls on the EU Member States to speed up the transposition of the Electricity Directive (DIRECTIVE (EU) 2019/944) to allow consumers to participate in energy markets individually or via energy communities or collective self-consumption schemes to produce, self-consume, sell, or share renewable energy (COM(2022) 230 final).

4. The North Sea Summit on the expansion of offshore wind generation and cross-border interconnection of the energy supply chain

Regarding onshore wind energy potential, the REPowerEU Plan’s annexes show wide areas in West Europe like Ireland, France, Spain, The Netherlands, Denmark, but also some areas in middle and South Europe as promising sites for onshore wind facilities (COM(2022) 230 final). Regarding offshore wind energy potential, mainly all North Sea and partially also Baltic Sea areas are very suitable areas with high potential for offshore wind power generation (COM(2022) 230 final). Considering the potential of offshore wind power generation in the North Sea, on the same day that the European Commission presented the REPowerEU Plan, the four North Sea neighbouring countries Germany, Denmark, Belgium, and the Netherlands met for a high-level North Sea Summit hosted by Denmark, to consider further investments in cross-border wind parks and renewable projects. At their North Sea Summit in Esbjerg, Denmark, the four countries pledged to pursue a tenfold rise in the installed wind capacity in the North Sea by 2050 coupled with ambitious targets for green hydrogen production (The Press and Information Office 2022). The European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen participated in the Offshore Wind Summit with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Belgian

Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte. In a joint summit declaration, the Esbjerg Offshore Wind Declaration the four EU Member States highlighted the role of home-grown North Sea offshore wind in strengthening the EU's energy security. It underlines the important role of wind power at sea and offshore hydrogen for the energy transition and for energy security in Europe (The Press and Information Office 2022). The four Member States will seek to reach at least 65 GW of offshore capacity by the end of the decade and then more than double it to at least 150 GW by 2050 (The Press and Information Office 2022). Such a capacity would amount to 15,000-20,000 wind turbines, based on the most powerful ones currently on the market.

To reach the joint goal, the countries have set individual, separate targets. The most significant contribution will be made by Germany, which has pledged to reach 30 GW of offshore wind by 2030 and boost it to 70 GW by 2045. Belgium will seek to establish 5.8 GW offshore wind capacity by 2030 and 8 GW by 2040 while Denmark has committed to reaching at least 10 GW by 2030 with a view towards up to 35 GW by 2050. The Netherlands plans to establish about 21 GW offshore wind capacity around 2030.

As part of the cross-border cooperation, Denmark will establish an energy island in the North Sea with an initial capacity of 3GW of offshore wind by 2033 and connections to its mainland and Belgium. Later, the island will be connected to Germany and the Netherlands. Belgium will establish an offshore energy island, which will combine offshore wind generation and cross-border interconnections. Belgium and Denmark will work closely together on hybrid renewable energy projects, including the connection between both the Danish Energy Island and the Belgian Energy Island (THE DECLARATION OF ENERGY

MINISTERS 2022). Furthermore, Denmark and the Netherlands will explore how to connect the energy island in the Danish EEZ to a Dutch energy hub, including perspectives for offshore green hydrogen production. Germany and Denmark already developed a first of its kind hybrid offshore wind cooperation project and intend to cooperate on the Bornholm Energy Island in the Baltic Sea including hybrid interconnections and will also engage in hybrid renewable energy projects in the North Sea (THE DECLARATION OF ENERGY MINISTERS 2022). To achieve these targets, the countries will take all relevant and appropriate steps to speed up regulatory and permitting processes as much as possible and invite the European Commission to actively support these efforts (THE DECLARATION OF ENERGY MINISTERS 2022).

The expansion of offshore wind and the realisation of large-scale energy hubs should fit in a broader vision on the use of the North Sea, making sure the North Sea can be used effectively and efficiently for multi-use purposes. They will also support the work of the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP) and other efforts to promote offshore wind (THE DECLARATION OF ENERGY MINISTERS 2022).

5. Conclusion

The Russian war in the Ukraine has revealed the interdependencies between the need to become independent from imports of fossil fuels for geopolitical reasons and for achieving a green energy system, based on renewable energy to achieve carbon neutrality in the EU by 2050. The Russian war in Ukraine has triggered this double urgency to achieve a swift transition of the EU's energy system towards renewable energies. In this new geopolitical reality, also the role of gas as a transitional fuel must be reconsidered. Therefore, the measures explained in the REPowerEU Plan are aiming at reducing the EU's dependence from Russian fossil fuels, but it also

aims at accelerating the transformation of the EU's energy system towards renewable energies. The REPowerEU Plan recognises the "Fit for 55" Package and the European Green Deal's targets of higher shares of renewables in the energy supply. The REPowerEU Plan presents a set of actions to save energy, diversify supplies, and to quickly substitute fossil fuels by accelerating Europe's clean energy transition and smartly combine investments and reforms. Furthermore, legislation on renewable and energy efficiency will be revised to achieve ambitious targets and a truly interconnected and resilient EU energy network to provide energy security for all EU Member States. The Esbjerg Summit to accelerate the expansion of the wind power generation in the North Sea took place on the very same day as the presentation of the REPowerEU Plan. The REPowerEU Plan will require a massive expansion of the wind power generation, and in particular the offshore wind generation, and simplification of permitting processes to strengthen Europe's wind energy supply chain. By diversifying the energy supplies and increasing the share of renewables, in particular wind power generation, the EU will be able not only to reduce and abolish its dependency on Russian fossil fuels but also to work on the transformation of its energy system towards renewable energies.

References

COM (2021) 557 final: Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directive 98/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652, COM(2021) 557 final. In: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/am](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/amendment-renewable-energy-directive-2030-climate-target-with-annexes_en.pdf)

[amendment-renewable-energy-directive-2030-climate-target-with-annexes_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/amendment-renewable-energy-directive-2030-climate-target-with-annexes_en.pdf), 14.7.2021, accessed 31 May 2022

COM/2022/108 final: COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS REPowerEU: Joint European Action for more affordable, secure, and sustainable energy. COM/2022/108 final. In:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2022%3A108%3AFIN>

Strasbourg, 8.3.2022, accessed 14 March 2022

COM (2022) 222 final: Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency (COM (2022) 222 final). In:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2022%3A222%3AFIN&qid=1653033811900>, 18 May 2022, accessed 31 May 2022

COM/2022/230 final: "Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. REPowerEU Plan {SWD(2022) 230 final}" (COM(2022) 230 final), 18.5.2022, accessed 30 May 2022

Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. In: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2018.328.01.0082.01.ENG, PE/48/2018/REV/1, OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 82-209, accessed 31 May 2022

European Commission (2022a): REPowerEU: A plan to rapidly reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels and fast forward the green transition*. In:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_3131, 18 May 2022, *: updated 18 May 2022, accessed 30 May 2022

European Commission (2022b): REPowerEU: Joint European action for more affordable, secure, and sustainable energy. In:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_1511, 8 March 2022, accessed 14 March 2022

European Commission (2022c): REPowerEU: Joint European action for more affordable, secure, and sustainable energy. In:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/fs_22_1513 MARCH 2022, accessed 15 March 2022

European Commission (2022d): Questions and Answers on the REPowerEU Communication*. In:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_22_3132, 18 May 2022, *:updated on 19 May 2022, accessed 31 May 2022

European Council (2022a): Informal meeting of the Heads of State or Government, 10 and 11 March 2022. In:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/54773/20220311-versailles-declaration-en.pdf>, 11 March 2022, accessed 15 March 2022

European Council (2022b): Remarks by President Charles Michel at the press conference following the informal meeting of the heads of state or government in Versailles. In:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/03/11/intervention-du-president-charles-michel-lors-de-la-conference-de-presse-a-l-issue-de-la-reunion-informelle-des-chefs-d-etat-ou-de-gouvernement-a-versailles/>, 11 March 2022, accessed 15 March 2022

European Council (2022c), General Secretariat of the Council: European Council meeting (24 and 25 March 2022) Conclusions. In:

<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-1-2022-INIT/en/pdf>, 25 March 2022, accessed 31 May 2022

THE DECLARATION OF ENERGY MINISTERS (2022): The Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities of the Kingdom of Denmark Dan Jørgensen, The Minister for Climate and Energy Policy of the Netherlands Rob Jetten, The Minister for Energy of the Kingdom of Belgium Tinne Van der Straeten, The Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of the Federal Republic of Germany Robert Habeck: THE DECLARATION OF ENERGY MINISTERS on The North Sea as a Green Power Plant of Europe. In: https://www.premier.be/sites/default/files/articles/Declaration%20of%20Energy%20Ministers_18%20May%202022%5B36%5D.pdf, accessed 31 May 2022

The Esbjerg Declaration: THE ESBJERG DECLARATION on The North Sea as a Green Power Plant of Europe. In:

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/974430/2040932/b357fa6726099a0304ee97c3a64e411c/2022-18-05-erklaerung-nordsee-gipfel-data.pdf>, accessed 31 May 2022

The Press and Information Office of the Federal Government: THE ESBJERG DECLARATION on The North Sea as a Green Power Plant of Europe. In: <https://www.bundeskanzler.de/bk-en/news/wind-power-cooperation-2040980>, 18 May 2022, accessed 31 May 2022

Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 (‘European Climate Law’), PE/27/2021/REV/1. In: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R1119>, OJ L 243, 9.7.2021, p. 1-17, accessed 31 May 2022