The Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature (OCEaN)

Collaborations across EU sea basins

UfM webinar

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Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature

Renewables Grid Initiative

KEY ELEMENTS

- Offshore wind
- Grid
- Co-existence with nature and other human activities

11 Grid Operators
17 Wind Energy Companies
18 Civil Society Organisations

Collaborating for nature-friendly offshore wind and grid

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NORTH & BALTIC SEAS

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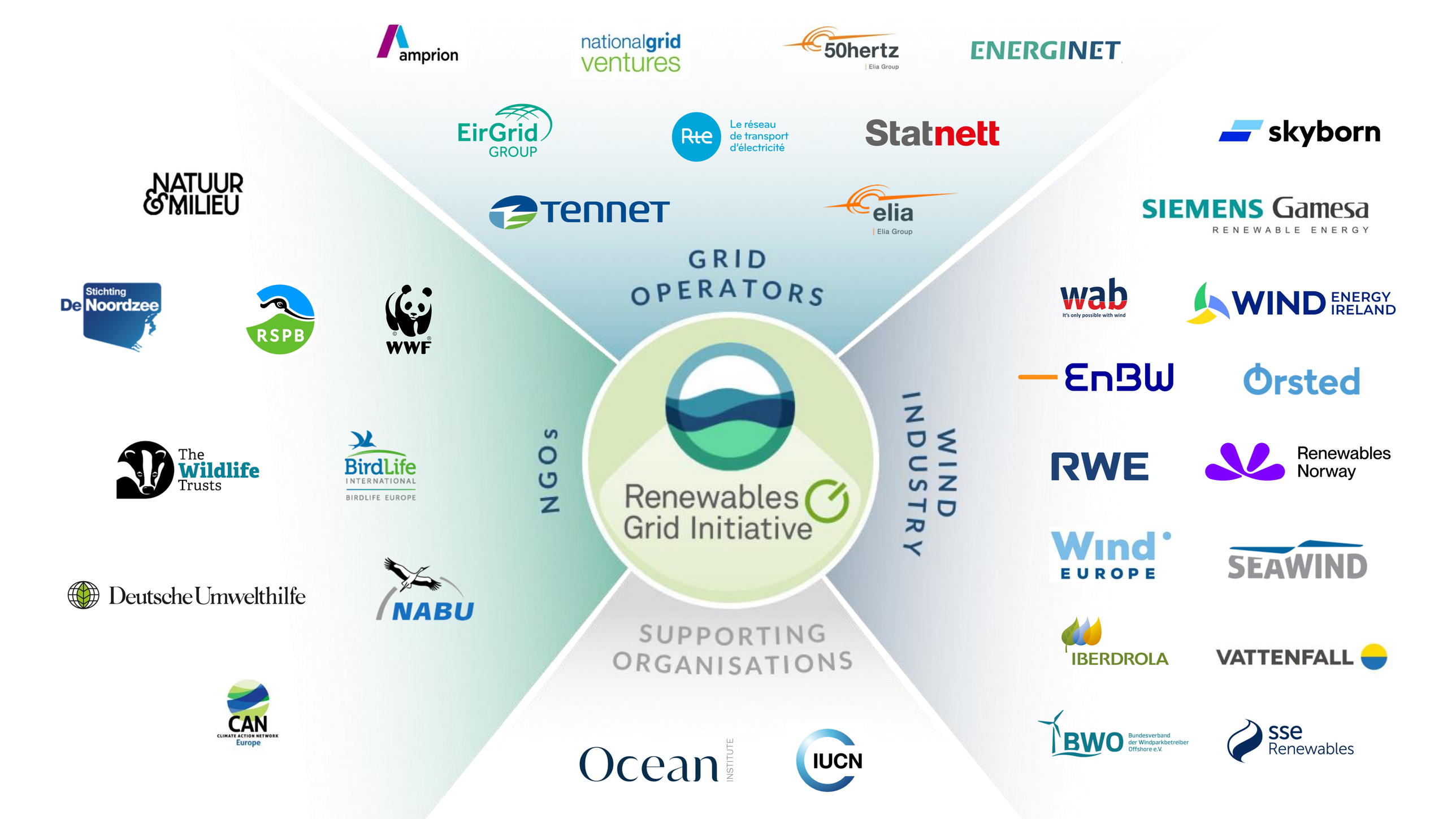
MEDITERRANEAN SEA


amprion
nationalgrid ventures
50hertz
Elia Group
ENERGINET
EirGrid GROUP
Rte Le réseau de transport d'électricité
Statnett
skyborn
NATUUR & MILIEU
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SIEMENS Gamesa
RENEWABLE ENERGY
GRID OPERATORS
Stichting De Noordzee
RSPB
WWF
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It's only possible with wind
WIND ENERGY IRELAND
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Ørsted
The Wildlife Trusts
BirdLife INTERNATIONAL
BIRDLIFE EUROPE
NGOs
Renewables Grid Initiative
WIND INDUSTRY
RWE
Renewables Norway
Wind EUROPE
SEAWIND
Deutsche Umwelthilfe
NABU
IBERDROLA
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SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS
CAN CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK Europe
Ocean INSTITUTE
IUCN
BWO Bundesverband der Windparkbetreiber Offshore e.V.
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REN
Le réseau de transport d'électricité
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BirdLife INTERNATIONAL
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Renewables Grid Initiative
WIND INDUSTRY
FRANCE renouvelables
système électrique pilotable
FRANCE NATURE ENVIRONNEMENT
WWF
BlueFloat ENERGY
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Facilitate open forum for discussion

Advocate for OW, grids & nature

Showcase solutions

Create common understanding

Fill knowledge gaps

Collect innovative practices

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What do we do?

Auctioning – ecological criteria

Nature Inclusive Design

Management of environmental data

Mitigation of environmental impacts

Restoration of marine ecosystems

Maritime Spatial Planning

Coexistence with other activities

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What topics do we cover?

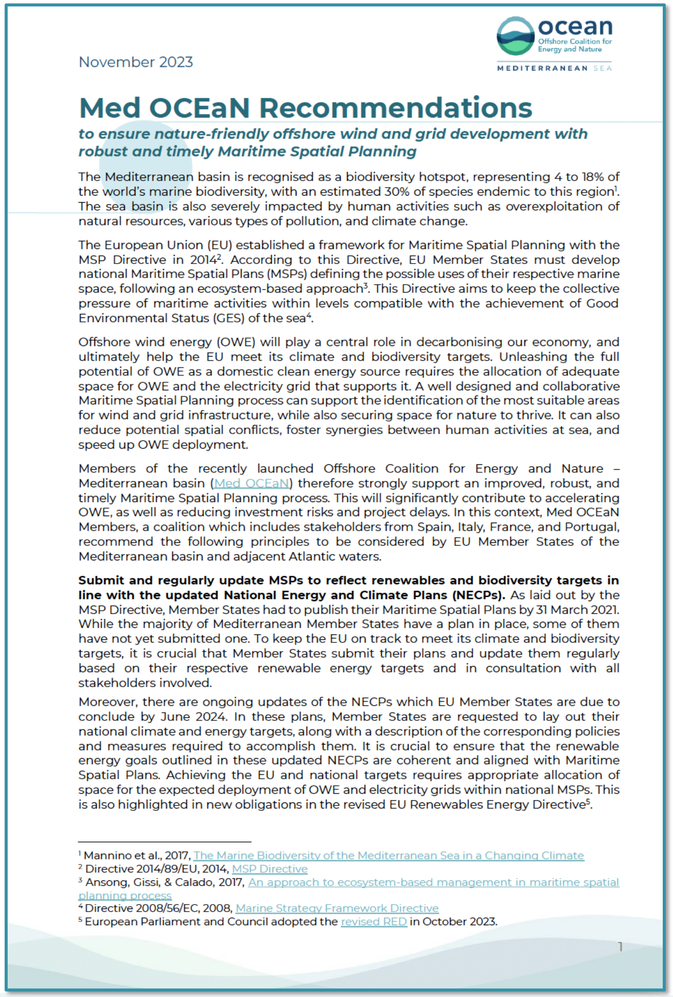
ENERGY, NATURE AND PEOPLE ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Sustainable planning

- Maritime Spatial Planning
- Co-existence with nature and other activities
- Cross-border collaborations
- Stakeholder engagement

Nature-friendly offshore wind and grid infrastructure

- Mitigation, Enhancement and Restoration
- Measurable targets and contributions
- Biodiversity data sharing
- Community engagement and benefits



November 2023

ocean Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Med OCEaN Recommendations

to ensure nature-friendly offshore wind and grid development with robust and timely Maritime Spatial Planning

The Mediterranean basin is recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, representing 4 to 18% of the world's marine biodiversity, with an estimated 30% of species endemic to this region[1]. The sea basin is also severely impacted by human activities such as overexploitation of natural resources, various types of pollution, and climate change.

The European Union (EU) established a framework for Maritime Spatial Planning with the MSP Directive in 2014[2]. According to this Directive, EU Member States must develop national Maritime Spatial Plans (MSPs) defining the possible uses of their respective marine space, following an ecosystem-based approach[3]. This Directive aims to keep the collective pressure of maritime activities within levels compatible with the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) of the sea[4].

Offshore wind energy (OWE) will play a central role in decarbonising our economy, and ultimately help the EU meet its climate and biodiversity targets. Unleashing the full potential of OWE as a domestic clean energy source requires the allocation of adequate space for OWE and the electricity grid that supports it. A well designed and collaborative Maritime Spatial Planning process can support the identification of the most suitable areas for wind and grid infrastructure, while also securing space for nature to thrive. It can also reduce potential spatial conflicts, foster synergies between human activities at sea, and speed up OWE deployment.

Members of the recently launched Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature – Mediterranean basin (Med OCEaN) therefore strongly support an improved, robust, and timely Maritime Spatial Planning process. This will significantly contribute to accelerating OWE, as well as reducing investment risks and project delays. In this context, Med OCEaN Members, a coalition which includes stakeholders from Spain, Italy, France, and Portugal, recommend the following principles to be considered by EU Member States of the Mediterranean basin and adjacent Atlantic waters.

Submit and regularly update MSPs to reflect renewables and biodiversity targets in line with the updated National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs). As laid out by the MSP Directive, Member States had to publish their Maritime Spatial Plans by 31 March 2021. While the majority of Mediterranean Member States have a plan in place, some of them have not yet submitted one. To keep the EU on track to meet its climate and biodiversity targets, it is crucial that Member States submit their plans and update them regularly based on their respective renewable energy targets and in consultation with all stakeholders involved.

Moreover, there are ongoing updates of the NECPs which EU Member States are due to conclude by June 2024. In these plans, Member States are requested to lay out their national climate and energy targets, along with a description of the corresponding policies and measures required to accomplish them. It is crucial to ensure that the renewable energy goals outlined in these updated NECPs are coherent and aligned with Maritime Spatial Plans. Achieving the EU and national targets requires appropriate allocation of space for the expected deployment of OWE and electricity grids within national MSPs. This is also highlighted in new obligations in the revised EU Renewables Energy Directive[5].

[1] Mannino et al., 2017, The Marine Biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea in a Changing Climate
[2] Directive 2014/89/EU, 2014, MSP Directive
[3] Ansong, Gissi, & Calado, 2017, An approach to ecosystem-based management in maritime spatial planning process
[4] Directive 2008/56/EC, 2008, Marine Strategy Framework Directive
[5] European Parliament and Council adopted the revised RED in October 2023.

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Thanks for your attention