



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Office of the President Ms Ursula von der Leyen

Head of Cabinet

Brussels,
Ares (2022) 3864087

Dear [REDACTED],

President von der Leyen would like to thank you for sharing your views on the potential for offshore renewable hydrogen and the study conducted by AFRY for the AquaVentus Initiative.

We take due note of your indications on possible benefits of renewable hydrogen produced offshore regarding cost reductions or environmental impacts. We are aware that some Member States and private actors are analysing with great interest the potential of linking offshore wind generation with renewable hydrogen. Such a link is an example of how energy sector integration, as promoted in our Strategy of 2020¹, can provide substantial benefits towards achieving the decarbonisation goals.

We expect the pathway to achieving a decarbonised and secure energy system to rely to a large extent on energy efficiency and energy savings measures, electrifying demand and boosting renewable energy generation, and employing renewable hydrogen and biomethane in hard-to-abate sectors. On this basis, offshore wind should frequently result in the generation of renewable electricity to directly meet demand. At the same time there will be interesting opportunities to meet part of the hydrogen production needs from offshore wind farms.

The recent REPowerEU Plan² sets out ambitious targets for the upscaling of EU hydrogen production, which will also require adequate infrastructure development.

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¹ COM(2020)299.

² COM(2022)230.

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The production of renewable hydrogen from offshore wind, either offshore or in electrolyzers located for example at or near ports, can be facilitated by several developments, such as:

- The current electricity market design and the applicability considerations included in the Commission's Staff Working Document³ accompanying the Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy⁴ promote the implementation of offshore bidding zones. These would provide the right price signals in offshore areas, particularly relevant to any new demand in such areas, such as electrolyzers.
- The proposed rules of the hydrogen and decarbonised gas market package⁵ should contribute to regulatory certainty and accordingly speed up the development of the offshore renewable hydrogen networks.
- The rules for sourcing of renewable electricity from offshore bidding zones that are included in the draft Commission Regulation establishing a Union methodology for the production of renewable hydrogen⁶ aim to facilitate use of renewable electricity from offshore wind installations for hydrogen production.
- The new TEN-E regulation⁷ provides a framework for the coordinated planning and development of trans-European hydrogen infrastructure.

Many thanks again for sharing the abovementioned study. We would welcome organising a technical discussion about it with experts in our Directorate-General for Energy.

Yours sincerely,

Björn Seibert

³ SWD(2020)273.

⁴ COM(2020)741.

⁵ COM(2021)804 and COM(2021)803.

⁶ Link: Production of renewable transport fuels – share of renewable electricity (requirements) (europa.eu).

⁷ Regulation (EU) 2022/869.