

# Key action areas

## Energy and Climate Change working group

### Vestfold, Norway, 6 October 2017



# Key action areas of the working group

- 1) Facilitate climate change adaptation and mitigation through local, regional and national levels
- 2) Facilitate for a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- 3) Promote energy efficiency as well as innovation and green growth in low-carbon technologies
- 4) Foster strong regional, national and European support for the development of the North Sea Grid



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# Key action area 1

- Create and distribute/communicate a climate change adaptation brochure for the North Sea based on its best practices
  - Assignments Climate Change of 30 students Hanze university of applied sciences finished in January 2017
  - Discussion of brochure at April meeting Agder, finished in June 2017
- Adopt and disseminate a North Sea position on parts of Winter package Energy Union
  - Develop and communicate the NSC position, in cooperation with the NSC regions and stakeholders
  - Statement proposal in April (Agder) June 2017 Annual Business Meeting Gottingen
  - Follow the next Winter Package closely and analyse if a NSC response is needed (expected November 2017).

# The North Sea Commission Climate Change Adaptation in the North Sea Region

## The North Sea Commission

The North Sea Commission (NSC) is a regional platform for regional coastal and marine issues. It is a unique partnership between regional authorities from the North Sea Region, which face the challenges and opportunities of the North Sea. Through dialogue and shared partnerships, we work to promote regional interests and to promote regional interests in relation to European Union legislation, national governments and other organisations dealing with issues that are relevant to the North Sea.

The North Sea Commission is one of six geographical commissions under the framework of the Northern Dimension (ND). The North Sea Region is a geographical area defined by the North Sea. Geographically it covers the North Sea region of Denmark, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, UK, France and Norway. The NSC brings together some 100 experts from 28 states, both members and non-members of the European Union, and thereby represents about 200 million people. It campaigns in favour of a more balanced development of the European territory and is also working towards the delivery of an integrated maritime policy designed to create jobs towards Europe's economic growth.



## The North Sea Region

The North Sea Region (NSR) includes a number of strong economies and is one of the most successful regions in Europe. The NSR therefore has the potential to act as an engine for growth in Europe by using best practices developed in the NSR and acting as a centre of excellence for the EU issues.

The NSR 2020 strategy sets out priorities for four focus areas. The aim is to support sustainable growth and improve the quality of life for the region's citizens by addressing the energy and climate issues facing the region, promoting a more environmentally friendly and efficient transport sector, tapping into blue resources and promoting local businesses and partnerships in order to help create vibrant local communities. In addition, the strategy will promote innovation and seek to support a skilled and relevant workforce for the future. The strategy therefore provides a framework for policy integration and coherent development of the North Sea Region.

## Climate Change Adaptation

One of the main challenges facing the North Sea Region is climate change, with the adaptation and mitigation measures. Increased precipitation and flooding in the North Sea will be one of the most significant impacts of climate change in the North Sea Region. The severity of the impacts of climate change varies by region. Strong sea levels and coastal areas have flooding at times of extreme weather conditions have a significant impact on the North Sea. Climate change will add stress to fisheries, agriculture and especially coastal areas of coastal and marine systems. The coastal areas of the North Sea will be particularly vulnerable to sea level rise and may provide insufficient protection. For the North Sea, these are all very important issues which need to be addressed and tackled with common strategies and approaches.

A Common Approach  
While all the countries in the NSR have an aim to develop a national climate strategy, it is essential that they work together to develop a common approach to climate change in the North Sea Region.



There will be a need for coordination and development of a common approach to climate change in the North Sea Region. The North Sea Region are developing the knowledge base through common research and innovation. In this brochure you will find information on climate change policies and best practice.

### Raising Awareness

Dealing with climate change also means investing in the development of a low-carbon economy with energy efficiency, green technologies and climate change adaptation strategies. One of the main goals is to raise awareness of the issue among the general public.

### Renewable energy

With these challenges also come opportunities. Due to its geographical conditions, the North Sea Region has a high potential for renewable energy from wind, waves, tides, currents, hydropower and biomass.

# Key action area 2: facilitate reduction green house gas emission

- Monitor developments in the regions, stimulate exchange of best practices
  - Exchange of best practices between regions in the groups during working group meetings
  - Focus on reduction of emissions from industries (mobility/transport?)
- Inform group members and other stakeholders about relevant EU calls



# Key action area 3: energy efficiency, innovation and green growth in low-carbon technologies

- Monitor developments in the regions, stimulate exchange of best practices
  - 2/3 times activities during working group meetings
  - Exchange of best practices



# Key action area 4: Foster strong regional, national and European support for the North sea grid

- Visibility of NSC position in relevant statements and documents
  - NSC presidency in the Forum Political declaration off shore wind (June 2016)
  - Assen declaration
  - Brochure
- Promoting the role of the regions in the work related to the MS political declaration
  - Deliver written input to the working group meetings (expected twice a year)
- Establish the NSC and its member regions as an active partner in the energy cooperation around the North Sea
  - Exchange of best practices, cross border interconnections (during meetings)
  - Meeting with the Atlantic Arc Commission on off shore wind, 29 November Amsterdam

# NORTH SEA COMMISSION



An integrated approach  
to energy transition and  
the North Sea Grid











# What focus for involvement of group members

- Reduction of green house gas emissions (mobility, transport, industry)
- Best practices in energy efficiency
- Best practices in innovation and green growth in low carbon technologies
- Monitor the work of the political declaration off shore wind
- Communicate climate change adaptation best practices NSC

Thank you very much for your attention!



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