

Energy questionnaire

Introduction

Increasing economic activities in the Baltic Sea, including the emergence of new activities, such as deployment of offshore wind farms as well as potential deployment of wave energy facilities, add to the competition for sea space and puts additional pressure on sustainable utilization of marine areas.

Evidence constitutes a bit of a problem in the context of interaction between planning of development in the energy sector with MSP planning: it has been concluded during the national stakeholder meetings as well as thematic meetings in Riga and Tallinn, energy sector tends to do what it needs and when it needs rather than gets involved in MSP ahead of strategic developments. This stems from the fact that energy security is high on the agenda and provides sort of a privileged status to the sector over other areas of activity. This is especially true for trans-boundary infrastructure projects and large national infrastructure projects that are related to the stability and safe functioning of national energy systems.

The national consultations allow drawing the conclusion that energy issues shall be looked at from two different perspectives that represent national and international level. On the national level MSP is mainly related to potential deployment of off-shore wind (OSW) and wave energy facilities. Information on national stakeholder consultations indicates that the use of marine space for harvesting OSW and wave energy is treated almost exclusively as a national issue of interest. The only exception in CBC case is potential deployment of OSW in the Gulf of Riga near Estonian and Latvian sea border. On the international level sector's interests are related primarily to existing and any potential new underwater electricity cable interconnections between the CB countries as well as between CB countries and other countries of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR).

Requirements of the sector	Current offshore wind development activities in the Central Baltic
<p>Electricity production and transmission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Space</i> Offshore energy is a new addition to the activities in marine areas. Energy sector must compete with traditional uses of marine areas (fisheries, transport, etc.). The offshore wind park development is prescribed by the space demand per turbine; cable producers are defining the safety requirements for the setting up the grid system. These requirements are international as there are not so many producers. • <i>Land-sea interactions</i> through grid connections between facilities at sea and land lines, including paying attention to better coordination between MSP and territorial planning on land. • <i>Wind conditions</i>, sea depth, ice conditions • Planning of new cable lines can be impacted by existing cables or pipelines as well as cultural 	<p>In the Eastern and South-Eastern part of the Baltic Sea, offshore wind energy is mainly in the development stage. In EE and LV, MSP would have to give the possibility for off-shore wind energy and connecting wind farms to the on-shore grid.</p> <p>There are no electrical / transmission cables or operating off-shore wind parks deployed in the sea waters of EE and LV jurisdiction. However, there are several areas indicated where permits for the assessment of conditions and exploration of wind energy have been granted. There are currently 5 wind farms at sea in Sweden (all are located within Sweden's territorial waters). Economic profitability (due to technology costs) of offshore energy as well as in some cases lack of legal regulation has hindered the future development of wind parks.</p>

<p>heritage sites (wrecks) as well as environmental factors.</p>	
<p>Regulations</p> <p>The key international legal agreement for the marine area is the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). But UNCLOS only provides general rules, no detailed regulations. So far there is no specific international legal framework containing explicit provisions or regulations for renewable offshore installations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With respect to UNCLOS the coastal state is allowed to deploy offshore renewable energy projects anywhere within its EEZ. The coastal state cannot control the laying of cables by other states passing through its EEZ. UNCLOS also contains a general obligation for states to protect and preserve the marine environment. • IMO: Sea-lanes and traffic separation schemes are considered as excluded zones in the sea. In 1989 IMO adopted standards for the removal of offshore installations in the EEZ. • Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Birds and Habitats Directive: the designation of marine protected areas under CBD, Special Areas of Conservations according to Habitats Directive or Special Protected Areas under the Birds Directive can influence the location of energy infrastructure. Both directives do not exclude energy installations within protected areas. However both directives require an assessment of plans or projects that may significantly impact Natura2000 sites. 	<p>Potential conflicts</p> <p>Offshore Wind Farms (OWF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can destroy habitats of benthic species • Vibration / noise affects certain species • Displacement/Alteration of Habitats • Cumulative effects of deployment of OSW in the region <p>Power cables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their construction has temporal impacts on benthic habitats • Electro-magnetic field disturbs species <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geothermal and wave energy infrastructures can conflict fisheries interests • Cables may restrict shipping routes in shore areas • OWF can have negative impact on shipping safety and rescue operations
<p>Potential synergies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine conservation for sustainable fish stocks (Habitat) • Offshore Wind Farms (OWF) – installations as areas of potential fish habitats • OWF as potential exclusive marine areas for fishing with static gear (fishermen as unofficial monitors of the standards in the OWF-area) • Shipping and Fisheries strengthen development of multi-use ports infrastructure • Multi-use port infrastructure • Service vessels for energy 	



Baltic SCOPE

Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans

- Co-existence with the cables



Energy sector: issues for consideration

1. Energy sector approaches deployment of new infrastructure first and foremost from the perspective of energy security as an uninterrupted energy supply is key to the stability of energy system. Thus all projects are based on actual need to secure and improve the functioning of energy system. Apart from cross-border interconnections decisions on energy portfolio are made by national and local stakeholders.

QUESTION: What is needed for the decision making on new energy infrastructure, including on national level, to be closer coordinated with MSP in the Baltic Sea?

2. Decisions on deployment of OSW facilities are taken nationally and locally with little or no consultation with neighbouring countries as most of the time deployment of OSW facilities would not have any immediate and direct impact on other countries.

QUESTION: How and through what processes [of MSP] shall CBC countries consider cumulative effects of deploying new energy production infrastructure at sea?

3. Making decisions about new cross-border infrastructure takes place in close coordination on the Transmission System Operators' level (ENTSO-E and ENTSO-G). However, the national and local decision making is not harmonised and countries make decisions on deploying energy facilities depending on policy and legal conditions for support to renewable energy and energy production in general.

QUESTION: Would, for the purpose of making MSP in the Baltic Sea a more harmonised process, some sort of compulsory consultation be realistically achievable?

4. MSP processes and result can have a binding effect on national stakeholders, but no national MSP can impose anything on neighbouring CBC countries.

QUESTION: Can a common MSP exercise of the Baltic Sea, first, allow avoiding conflicting decisions between sectors that use marine space and, second, mitigate the potential negative cumulative effects between sectors on the level of all Baltic Sea states?