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## **NEW REPORT: SCALING UP OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY IN EUROPE**

Brussels, 12 October 2023

In a comprehensive [report](#) authored by renowned experts Prof. [Catherine Banet](#) (CERRE Research Fellow/University of Oslo) and Prof. [Bert Willems](#) (CERRE Research Fellow/ Université Catholique de Louvain), a roadmap for scaling up Offshore Wind Energy (ORE) in Europe through EU regulatory action has been unveiled. Europe's offshore wind ambitions are soaring. The EU's ORE Strategy targets 300 GW of offshore wind and 40 GW of ocean energy by 2050. Political agreements with neighbouring countries, like the April 2023 Ostend Declaration, boost these goals, especially in the North Seas. However, the offshore wind sector faces high demand, limited supply, and increased costs. The move towards hybrid offshore wind systems presents new regulatory challenges. Rapid action is vital to meet climate targets and industrial goals. The EU must address regulatory uncertainties to attract investments.

### **The report identifies four key areas where precise EU intervention can support the scaling of offshore wind:**

1. **Planning:** Advocating for integrating offshore wind projects into an overarching plan for the Blue Economy, combining maritime and energy planning in alignment with National Energy and Climate Plans.
2. **Permitting:** Streamlining and expediting permitting processes for offshore wind generation and associated infrastructure at the Member State level.
3. **Cross-border projects:** Encouraging the development of substantial cross-border projects and related infrastructures through streamlined permitting and clustering, fostering collaboration between EU Member States and neighbouring coastal nations.
4. **Mutual and local benefits:** Emphasizing the need to ensure harmonious co-existence among offshore activities and highlighting the potential for mutual benefits and local advantages in developing offshore wind projects

### **Main quotes from the authors of the report:**

- **Prof. Bert Willems:** *"Cost allocation rules for investing in hybrid assets must create win-win situations. Guidance can come from cost-benefit studies. It's crucial that we pay extra attention to prospective network investments - those that aren't yet tied to actual demand."*
- **Prof. Catherine Banet:** *"There is a sense of urgency in clarifying the regime for hybrids to meet offshore wind targets efficiently and sustainably. A gradual regulatory approach for hybrids should start with fundamental elements of market structure and adapt as grid design and market solutions mature. Further clarification is needed regarding non-price elements in the tendering process."*

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