

Agenda

Conference: Strong Winds, Thriving Seas

30 October 2024 (in person)

Maison de la Poste – Rue Picard 7, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

9:30 to 16:30 (networking cocktails will follow)

Register [here](#)

9:30	Check-in & coffee
10:00	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cristina Simioli, Renewables Grid Initiative, Director – Offshore Energy and Nature</i>
10:10	<p>Inspiring Headliner: a wave of optimism for addressing the climate and biodiversity crises side-by-side</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Huub den Rooijen CBE, 3blue, Marine Advisor</i>
10:30	<p>Panel Discussion: Achieving a nature- and people-positive offshore energy future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ariel Brunner, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, Regional Director</i> • <i>Emma Hospes, Ørsted, Head of Strategic Environment & Permitting and Biodiversity Programme</i> • <i>Dr. Karsten Sach, GINGR, Chair of International Advisory Board</i> • <i>Dr. Josien Steenbergen, Wageningen Marine Research, Program Manager Offshore Wind Farms</i> <p><u>Moderator</u>: <i>Cristina Simioli, Renewables Grid Initiative, Director – Offshore Energy and Nature</i></p>
11:30	<p>Tour of Offshore Energy and Nature Fair: sailing through solutions</p> <p><i>Organisations will showcase their practices on how nature can be protected, enhanced or restored in tandem with offshore wind and grid expansion in a dedicated area within the event.</i></p>
13:00	Lunch break

14:10	<p>Keynote: leadership to drive action for nature-friendly offshore wind and grids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tinne Van der Straeten, Minister for Energy of Belgium</i>
14:20	<p>Panel Discussion: Navigating a path to 2030 – centering nature alongside offshore wind ambitions in European political agendas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Giles Dickson, WindEurope, CEO</i> • <i>Ester Asin Martinez, WWF European Policy Office, Director</i> • <i>Olivier Feix, Elia/50Hertz, Head of Strategy/Corporate Development</i> • <i>Alwyn de Jong, SSE Renewables, Head of Corporate Affairs, Netherlands & Northern Europe</i> • <i>Maria Jimenez, Spanish Permanent Representation to the EU, Energy Coord. Counsellor</i> • <i>Claudine Vliegen, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (Netherlands), Team Coordinator Regional Sea and EU</i> • <i>Eleni Hatziyanni, DG MARE, European Commission, Policy Officer</i> • <i>Member of European Parliament – TBC</i> <p><u>Moderator:</u> <i>Antonella Battaglini, Renewables Grid Initiative, CEO</i></p>
15:30	<p>Closing Panel: Reflecting on the day and path ahead – OCEaN’s role in nature-friendly offshore wind and grid development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Saskia Jaarsma, TenneT, Head of Offshore Development, Large Projects Offshore</i> • <i>Ewout van Galen, the North Sea Foundation, Director</i> • <i>Dr. Eva Julius-Philipp, Vattenfall, Director Environment & Sustainability Unit BA Wind</i> • <i>Nailia Dindarova, BlueFloat Energy, Chief Market Development Officer</i> • <i>Mauro Randone, WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative, Regional Projects Manager</i> <p><u>Moderator:</u> <i>Cristina Simioli, Renewables Grid Initiative, Director – Offshore Energy and Nature</i></p>
16:15	<p>Wrap-up & Outlook</p>
16:30	<p>Networking cocktails</p>