

Investing in action, paying for inaction

From climate and biodiversity crisis to nature-friendly offshore wind and grids

Date: Wednesday 22 April 2026, **13:20 – 15:20**

Networking Lunch: from **12:30 – 13:20**

Location: Colón, Level 2, Conference Area (IFEMA North Convention Center),
Madrid

Open to: registered participants (register [here](#))

The consequences of failing to address climate change and biodiversity loss carry alarming economic costs, increasingly borne by public budgets and societies that depend on ecosystem services.

This workshop aims to explore how offshore wind – a key pillar of Europe’s energy transition and the fight against climate change and associated biodiversity loss – can help mitigate these costs, and what it takes to ensure that it is compatible with marine ecosystem protection, financially viable, and supported by measurable environmental outcomes.

Perspectives from banks, institutions, wind developers, TSOs and NGOs across the North Sea, Baltic Sea, and Mediterranean regions will be brought together, addressing financial, policy, planning and technological dimensions.

AGENDA

12:30 – 13:20	Networking lunch
13:20 – 13:30	Keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tinne Van der Straeten, CEO, WindEurope
13:30 – 14:30	Expert panel I – Unlocking financing for nature-friendly offshore wind and grids: advantages of action and costs of inaction <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonella Battaglini, CEO, Renewables Grid Initiative • Lucy Holmes, Senior Director, Ocean Markets and Finance, WWF • Dr. Eva Julius-Philipp, Director Environment & Sustainability Unit BA Wind, Vattenfall

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean Whittaker, Lead, Offshore Wind Development Program and Energy Climate Finance, World Bank/ESMAP • Moderator: Cristina Simioli, Director – Offshore Energy and Nature, Renewables Grid Initiative <p>Pitches with concrete examples on the costs of action and inaction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskia Jaarsma, Head of Offshore Development, Large Projects Offshore, TenneT • Lucy Holmes, Senior Director, Ocean Markets and Finance, WWF
<p>14:30 – 15:15</p>	<p>Expert panel II – Riding the waves: How to advance floating offshore wind and biodiversity protection in the Mediterranean</p> <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mattia Cecchinato, Manager - Offshore Wind, WindEurope <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susana Valdés Francí, Head of Unit for Wind at the Deputy Directorate General for Renewable Energy, MITECO • Mauro Randone, Regional Programme Coordinator for Protecting, Managing & Restoring Ecosystems, WWF Mediterranean • Catarina Rei, Permitting and Environment Director, Ocean Winds • Gro Waeraas de Saint Martin, Director Strategy & Development Offshore Grids, Réseau de Transport d'Électricité • Moderator: Deni Bellamy, Coordinator – Offshore Energy and Nature, Renewables Grid Initiative
<p>15:15 - 15:20</p>	<p>Closing remarks</p>