

11 March 2024

Renewables Norway's feedback on the EU-Norway Green Alliance

Cooperation on climate, environment, energy, and industrial transformation between the European Union and Norway is essential for the renewable industry in Norway. Renewables Norway strongly supports the Norway-EU Green Alliance and encourage the parties to engage with and further integrate industry in the on-going processes. Importantly, the EU and Norway are global drivers for ambitious climate policy, of which renewable energy is a key part of the solution to keep their commitment to their respective 2030 targets of at least 55 % greenhouse gas emission reductions compared to 1990, and to achieving climate-neutrality at the latest by 2050, aiming to keep global temperature rise within the 1.5 C-degree target while ensuring energy security, environmental protection and human rights.

I. What are your views on the current state, and the future direction, of the green transition in Europe? How does the green shift driven by the EU affect your operations?

Renewables Norway warmly welcomes the green shift driven by the EU as it is solely positive for our members. The focus of the Green Alliance on climate neutrality as the pathway for growth, jobs and competitiveness is directly linked to the build-out and access to green energy. The Norwegian renewables industry has high expectations for the future direction of the green transition in Europe as the main driver for growth in our sector. Despite a challenging political landscape, we are positive to recent market and political developments. It is our firm belief that not achieving our joint commitments to maintain a 1.5 C-degree climate target, will continue to have disastrous consequences for our entire global community. In short, not doing anything is not something anyone can afford. Renewables Norway and its members are committed to a green transition of the global economy and ready to support the government of Norway and the EU as best we can.

The operations of Renewables Norway's members are directly affected by the green transition in Europe. The foundation of a green industry is access to sustainable, reliable, and resilient green energy, of which our members are the key players. An increased demand for renewable energy contributes directly to more jobs across the entire value chain, including employment opportunities within energy installation, research and development, finances and investment decisions, policy and regulatory, legal services, human relations, communication, and public relations.

Lastly, renewable energy such as wind power have nearly completely European supply chains, providing an essential element of security of supply for Europe which adds to European resilience. Hence, Renewables Norway is positive to the first steps to further Norway-EU green industrial relations. In conclusion, an enhanced focus on green transition is not only essential for our global community to reach our climate targets, but it also brings with it valuable economic opportunities that are especially important for an energy exporting country like Norway.

II. How can we use the Green Alliance to position Norway and Norwegian competence and technology in this green transition?

Renewables Norway appreciate the aim of the Green Alliance to showcase Norway and Norwegian competence and technology. There is in our opinion a need for further integration of Norwegian green industry in discussions with the European Commission and EU member countries. Renewables Norway's cooperation with clean energy industry associations in similarly aligned EU member countries has proven fruitful to gain access to officials within the various EU institutions. It is our hope that the EU-Norway Green Alliance would work to further establish a link between Norwegian and EU

green industry, allowing Norwegian stakeholders from the green industry access to the relevant decision- and policymakers, and vice versa.

III. What could your company/organization contribute with in this respect?

Renewables Norway and our members are well-placed to contribute to advance the Norway-EU Green Alliance. With offices in Brussels together with several of Europe's largest renewable energy producers, we are keen to take an active role in furthering the Alliance. Our concrete suggestions for action points include further strengthening the Norwegian industry's access to EU institutions and continue to focus on building regional and bilateral alliances based on our shared commitment to the green transition.

Concrete actions to further the Alliance:

- Establish three working groups on offshore renewables, hydropower and green hydrogen with the European Commission and stakeholders from Norwegian industry, ref. EU-Norway Green Alliance agreement, point 4(2). Such working groups should be tasked with developing roadmaps for the three technologies and work to establish Strategic Partnerships on Value Chains for offshore wind, hydropower and other renewables, as well as green hydrogen. The offshore renewables working group meetings should be structured in close cooperation with the schedule of NSEC. Renewables Norway can contribute to organizing this.
- Create a working group or similar structure for energy planning dialogue. This working group should share and compare developments related to energy production and infrastructure, to coordinate between the EEA and EU governance structures related to energy planning.
- Commit to regular meetings between Norwegian green industry in Brussels and the Ambassador or attaché from the Norwegian Permanent Mission to the EU. The meetings should be set up in conjunction with meetings or events related to the Green Alliance with EU partners.
- Regularly invite Norwegian green industry to present in meetings with members of the North Sea Energy Cooperation, Nordic Ministry Council, and other forums where the Norwegian government discusses green industry developments.
- Second a Norwegian national expert for green industry to the EU Commission.
- Encourage European green industry to actively use branding of the EU-Norway Green Alliance, i.e., logos, roll-ups, etc.