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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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To deliver more affordable and secure energy to all Europeans and achieve the decarbonisation objectives as enshrined in the European Climate Law target (taking into account the precautionary principle)¹, the Union needs to significantly scale up renewable electricity generation.

As clearly stated in the Hamburg Declaration during the North Sea Summit on 26 January 2026, offshore renewable generation contributes to enhance Europe's energy resilience, provide affordable energy to consumers and ensure long-term competitiveness of European industries.

In December 2024, Member States themselves updated their goals on offshore renewable energy. Their combined figures result in an overall ambition of installing approximately 360 gigawatts by 2050.

Indeed, *all* net-zero and low carbon technologies will need to contribute to reach the climate goals. This includes all current and future solutions such as i.a. renewables, nuclear, and carbon removals². Offshore renewables are an indispensable part of the energy mix.

In line with the precautionary principle and EU environmental laws, it is essential to carry out an assessment of the likely environmental effects of certain projects likely to have significant effects on the environment, including on offshore renewable energy, before a permit is granted.

The financial support at EU level is based on legislative acts on EU funds, such as Horizon Europe³, the Connecting Europe Facility⁴ and the Innovation Fund⁵. Funding awards are subject to project application, and independent scrutiny based on objective criteria.

¹ 2021/1119/EU; see Articles 2 and 4, and preamble paragraph (9) (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1119/oj/eng>).

² Interinstitutional File 2025/0524 (COD) 19 December 2025, preamble paragraph (5) (<https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-17086-2025-INIT/en/pdf>). See also COM (2025) 85 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=COM:2025:85:FIN>) and COM (2025) 79, 26 February 2025 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=COM:2025:79:FIN>).

³ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/connecting-europe-facility_en.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02019R0856-20231121>.