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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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To deliver affordable, secure energy and achieve climate goals¹, the EU needs to - amongst several initiatives - significantly scale up renewable electricity generation².

In 2024, Member States updated their offshore renewable goals³. The North Sea Summit declarations align with this approach.

Offshore wind is a stable source of electricity, with the capacity factor of new installations reaching 50 per cent. This contributes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions⁴ and pollution⁵.

In line with the precautionary principle and EU environmental laws⁶ projects likely to have significant effects on the environment, including projects for offshore renewable energy, are subject to an environmental impact assessment. Effective participation for the public in the decision-making process is a fundamental requirement.

Europe has a solid position in the wind power value chain⁷ and aims at maintaining this strategic autonomy⁸. The financial support at EU level is subject to project application, and independent scrutiny based on objective criteria in EU law⁹.

Indeed, all net-zero and low carbon technologies need to contribute to reach the climate goals. Offshore renewables, just like nuclear, are an indispensable part of the net-zero energy mix. Member States have the right to decide which sources to include in their energy mix. For several Member States, nuclear energy is not only a decarbonisation tool, but also an asset to strengthen their energy autonomy and reduce external dependencies.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1119/EU.

² Eurostat. https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Electricity_and_heat_statistics.

³ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/renewable-energy/offshore-renewable-energy_en.

⁴ https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/climate-strategies-targets/progress-climate-action_en.

⁵ Port electricity commercial model (project pilot) <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/60f97fad-70b5-11ef-a8ba-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁶ Such as Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32011L0092>, Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds. See also Regulation 2022/869/EU on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32022R0869> (see Article 9 and Annex VI).

⁷ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/competitiveness/draghi-report_en#paragraph_47059.

European original equipment manufacturers dominate the domestic market, with a 96% (100% in 2023) share for offshore installations. 'Wind Energy in the European Union - 2025 Status Report on Technology Development, Trends, Value Chains and Markets' JRC, 2025.

⁸ See i.a. https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-modes/maritime/eu-ports-and-industrial-maritime-strategies_en.

⁹ See i.a. Regulations on Horizon Europe, Connecting Europe Facility and Innovation Fund. https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en, https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/connecting-europe-facility_en, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02019R0856-20231121>.

The Commission recently adopted the eighth Nuclear Illustrative Programme¹⁰ outlining the investment needs in nuclear by 2050. The Commission also adopted a Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) Strategy to accelerate the development and deployment of SMRs in Europe by early 2030s.

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1488.