

Resolution

“Offshore wind parks in the North Sea”

The Dutch, Danish and German islands of “Euregio the wadden” take note that fundamental requirements of the resolutions adopted at the XIIIth International Wadden Sea Forum in Wangerooge have not been complied with. Despite increasing criticism and reservations against an ever increasing use of wind power in the North Sea, there has been little change in the general conditions for issuance of permits for wind park projects. A full risk analysis and a concept for catastrophe defence for the intended development projects have not been submitted. The interests of the islands and their shore areas in preservation and protection of their habitat, and thereby of their economic basis, have not been sufficiently recognized.

That is why the islands again call for:

1. No wind turbines or wind parks within the 12-nautical-mile-zone.

The islands oppose fundamental changes of scenery within their immediate vicinity. A wide open, unspoiled view across the sea is fundamental to the islands. Nowadays the remaining undestructed landscape has become of prime importance for tourism. A sustained disturbance of the islands' character would cause great damage to tourism.

The realization of nearshore and offshore wind parks within the 12-nautical-mile-zone is not compatible with the proposed registration of the wadden sea as a world nature heritage by the UNESCO. Because of the high number of already approved projects in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the existing test opportunities in the vicinity of ports, the wind parks in the vicinity of the islands are superfluous, in Lower Saxony as well. In particular we call upon the government of Lower Saxony to follow the example of the governments of Schleswig-Holstein and the Netherlands in abandoning projected planning within the 12-nm-zone.

2. Amendment of national regulations

National and international regulations concerning large constructions offshore, which are based on international maritime law agreements, must adapt similar planning and approval criteria as those in effect on the mainland. Above all, an superordinate regional development policy for the North Sea area is necessary. Additionally the implementation of the national ICZM-strategie is necessary to support well-balanced approval procedures.

3. Increased safety at sea

In this sector there have been recognizable efforts, but they are still insufficient as risk prevention measures. The issue of collision risks between ships and windmills is a core problem of site suitability, which is not taken into account sufficiently in approval procedures. The safety distances between wind parks

and international shipping routes, as laid down in the construction permits, are too small.

We call upon the Netherlands, Germany with Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, as well as Denmark, to accept and implement the decision of the European Parliament for improved safety at sea (2003/2235 INI). The same applies to the resolution of the Wadden Sea Forum as stipulated in its Final Report.

4. Liability and insurance

Legal liability stipulations in case a ship collides with a windmill are insufficient. The islands cannot see that the involved bodies, especially the governments, are working on any constructive improvements for this situation. Preventive measures have priority, but there must also be a clarification of liability, insurance and indemnification in case of accidents. For reasons of prevention and to limitate possible damages the installation of safety platforms close to the offshore wind parks is demanded as an obligation for the operating companies.

Adopted at the conference of Euregio the wadden on 25th of May 2007, Island Sylt, Germany.

This resolution will be committed to:

The national governments of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands.