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Dutch virtual trade mission to Poland

Exploring synergies to boost offshore wind - for better climate and sustainable energy transition

A virtual Dutch trade mission to Poland will take place on 10 and 11 December. Representatives of authorities and businesses from both countries will have an opportunity to discuss the challenges and benefits of offshore wind energy development. The mission will be carried out under the auspices of Sigrid Kaag, Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.

We are at a turning point when it comes to the national energy mix - Poland is still heavily dependent on coal, but like other EU countries, it is planning to significantly increase its renewable energy production. One of the main pillars of the Polish plans to do is the development of wind energy in the Baltic Sea. According to the draft Act on the promotion of electricity generation in offshore wind farms adopted by the Council of Ministers, in the first phase of the support system, for farms with a total installed capacity of 5.9 GW, aid will be granted by way of an administrative decision by the President of the Urząd Regulacji Energetyki. The possibility of entering this system ends on 30 June 2021, which results from the EU regulations on public aid. In subsequent years, support will be granted already in the form of competitive auctions, organised on dates specified in the Act. The auctions will cover a total capacity of 5 GW. However, the potential of the Polish part of the Baltic Sea is greater, reaching even 28 GW according to experts. In case Poland reaches this number it would give Poland a leading position in the Baltic Sea in terms of installed capacity. According to the European industry association WindEurope, 83 GW of offshore wind power capacity could be installed in the entire Baltic Sea by 2050. The European Commission points to the potential of up to 93 GW. Polish and Dutch Participants of the Dutch trade mission will talk about new projects, cooperation opportunities and past experience.

*Developing renewable energy sources are of key importance for achieving binding European and national climate objectives. Both Poland and the Netherlands are highly ambitious in terms of using the sea as a location for generating wind energy. Offshore wind power has considerable potential, but also presents many challenges in the area of costs, technological innovation and installation and maintenance of offshore wind farms. I sincerely hope that during the Dutch virtual trade mission to Poland we can discover how Poland and the Netherlands can together seize the opportunities and face the challenges of wind power. Our businesses can work together to deliver highly competitive offshore projects and products – says **Daphne Bergsma, Dutch ambassador to Poland and Belarus.***

The development of offshore wind energy is to be one of the pillars of the transformation of the Polish economy. The green light for starting investments in our part of the Baltic Sea will be given by the entry into force of the provisions of the Act on the Promotion of Electricity Generation in Offshore Wind Power Plants, the so-called Offshore Act. Its draft was submitted to the Polish Parliament a few days ago, so we are counting on efficient proceedings. The investments launched thanks to this, the value of which is estimated by the government at PLN 120-130 billion, will stimulate the development of our economy in the coming decades, reducing its emissions and dependence on energy import. We are therefore meeting at a key moment for the Polish energy sector. I hope that the exchange of valuable

*experience with players already operating on the offshore market will lay the foundations for cooperation in the future – concludes **Janusz Gajowiecki, President of the Board, PSEW.***

The trade mission is organised by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Dutch Enterprise Agency and the Embassy of the Netherlands. The co-organisers and substantive contributors are the PWEA and its Dutch counterpart, NWEA. Speakers will include Peter Potman, Deputy Director-General for Foreign Economic Relations at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Janusz Gajowiecki, President of the Board, PSEW, r. Jakub Budzyński, Deputy CEO, Polish Offshore Wind Energy Society (PTMEW), Izabela Kielichowska - Associate Director Energy, Sustainability and Infrastructure, Guidehouse Netherlands, Robert Tomaszewski, Sr Energy Analyst, Polityka Insight and a considerable number of Dutch experts and company representatives. The mission will be attended by representatives of nearly 50 companies from the Netherlands and a similar number from Poland. The participants will take part in panels and discussions as well as 1:1 sessions, during which it is possible to discuss the details of the cooperation. Due to the limitations caused by the coronavirus, this year the whole event will take place online.

The Netherlands' offshore wind development is accelerating to meet the targets set by the government in the Dutch Energy Agreement six years ago. In terms of offshore wind capacity, the Agreement proposed that, in addition to the 1 gigawatt (GW) of installed capacity from operational offshore wind farms, an additional 3.5 GW should be realised through the Dutch tender system by 2023. A total of 49TWh of offshore wind is required to meet current CO2 reduction targets from the Dutch climate agreement, which would result in approximately 10.6 GW of total installed capacity by 2030.

The Dutch government has implemented several policy instruments to secure the industry's growth. The offshore wind rollout in the Netherlands is on schedule and in line with the Dutch Energy Agreement. It has 1.5 GW in preconstruction (Borssele I-V) and another 1.5 GW under development (Hollandse Kust Zuid I-IV).

The new offshore wind energy roadmap 2030 outlines nine development zones, of which five have been tendered and are under various stages of development. Development is progressing as planned. The first new projects are scheduled to come online in 2020 (Borssele I-V) and 2022 (Hollandse Kust Zuid I-IV), followed by a steady capacity increase until 2030.

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