

WADDEN SEA FORUM

Thematic Group Energy

Fourth Meeting (TG E 4)

Wilhelmshaven, 13-14 January 2004

FINAL MINUTES

Agenda item 1. Opening (welcome, adoption agenda)

*Documents: Draft agenda TG Energy (TG E 4-1)
List of Composition TGs (TG E 4-1.1)*

The meeting was opened by the chairperson of the Thematic Group Energy, Mr. Schuhbauer, who welcomed the participants to the fourth meeting of the TG Energy. The meeting **adopted** the proposed draft agenda, which is in **Annex 1**, without amendments. A list of the participants is in **Annex 2**.

Agenda item 2. Adoption Minutes TG-3

Document: Draft minutes TG Energy (TG E 3)

The draft minutes were adopted without any amendments.

Agenda item 3. Announcements

Mr. Schuhbauer made some organizational announcements as well as about the next meeting, which will take place on 10 – 11 March in Oldenburg.

Wim ter Horst informed the meeting about the elaboration of spatial plans in the three Dutch Wadden Sea provinces. This will last about three years.

Agenda item 4. Brief report WSF-3 meeting

Document: TG E 4-4.1 Final draft minutes WSF-3

The meeting was informed about the outcome of the WSF-3 meeting (Oldenburg, 30-31 October 2003), in particular with regard to TG relevant decisions and the topical issues

- a) shrimp fisheries, which is about the price policy and its new regulation on EU level
- b) shipping safety, for which WSF-3 had agreed to initiate a study into recent developments and gaps
- c) offshore wind farms
 - it was stated that there is a need for cooperation between the countries to avoid adverse impacts.
 - spatial planning in the off-shore area is an issue in the Dutch parliament and the German responsible ministries.
 - the issue will be taken on board in the TG E policies
- d) WEG statement, which was distributed at the WSF-3 meeting.
(also distributed among the TG-E members)
- e) sustainability, which was further elaborated in national working groups
(also topic under agenda item 8)

Agenda item 5. Brief introduction to finalized external studies

The chair and the secretary gave a brief overview of finalized and ongoing external studies. The Planco study about the socio-economic inventory in the German WSR and the COWI socio-economic inventory in Denmark have been finalized. The English version of the latter one will be available soon. These reports, as well as the Oxford Brookes policy and management study will be printed in January and be made available to the members.

A study about sustainable development is being carried out by COWI and will be finalized in January 2004.

The consultant Prognos is working on an integrative assessment of the national socio-economic studies. The results will be presented in an easy-to-read format and will become available in the course of January 2004.

Prognos is also doing a perspective study for the Wadden Sea relevant sectors and branches, which will be finalized by the end of January 2004.

Agenda item 6. Generic scenarios

Document: TG E 4-6.1 Amended generic scenarios

The secretary introduced the amended generic scenarios, which are an improved update of the first draft, mainly with regard to the chapters about EU-, mobility-, energy, nature perception and Wadden Sea region. The meeting took note of the amended generic scenarios as a tool in the process of developing sustainable strategies.

Agenda item 7. Discussion on sector-specific scenarios and strategies

7.1 Introduction to and discussion of the draft extended skeleton of the specific scenarios

Document: TG E 4-7.1 Extended skeleton specific scenario energy

Ben Römgens introduced the agenda item by pointing at the visions of the sector and the development of strategies by taking into consideration different measures or project ideas. Also financial aspects and cooperation strategies would be essential issues.

The discussion started with some comments to the extended skeleton of the energy scenario. It was said that political stability and tension would have effects on the energy market and supply could always be a problem in the different scenarios.

Energy saving could easily differ among the scenarios which would effect the demand as well as energy prices. These are also very much related to the available resources and the energy supply.

Secondly, the meeting reflected the most essential energy issues before discussing different cases of the possible development of branches. As a result, the following topics were mentioned as the most important ones:

- potential to deliver and export energy
- production on islands and in the region
- balanced production and consumption
- imports to the WSR and transport through WSR (Norwegian gas)
- new wind parks in the future
- use of fossil energy
- use of tide energy possible?
- use of biomass energy
- storage of energy (electricity)
- area best suitable for alternative energy production (innovations and pilot projects)
- influence on environment
- energy savings are important
- energy is a driver for economic growth
- power stations in estuaries

As an emphasis, the meeting discussed some cases of the energy sector with regard to the WSR. The development of energy branches in the different worlds were intensively discussed in order to get a better understanding of the differences of the scenarios and to elaborate robust strategies for the energy sector. The results are give below in keywords.

Case 1. Oil and gas company

Development in cautious world:

- possible conflicts with nature conservation agencies
- consolidation of business
- business as usual
- for avoiding risks: common set of restrictions for energy production
- some new installations in the WSR
- modest interest in small resources because it is not worthwhile

Development in future unlimited:

- exploitation also of small resources (oil and gas)
- technology is used to protect the environment
- energy management: oil and gas delivery if renewables have difficulties
- strong cooperation between suppliers (oil, gas and wind)
- efforts for energy storage, convert primary energy to others
- LNG plants and new pipelines

Development in satisfied citizens:

- strong restrictions with regard to sustainable development
- big need for storage
- limited exploitation of North Sea gas and oil because of restrictions
- high taxes on gas and oil
- subsidies for renewables

Development in challenging world:

- secure of supply is an important goal
- only few restrictions
- lot of activities in the WSR, even some new installations
- conflicts with inhabitants

Case 2. Renewables

Development in cautious world:

Wind mill manufacturing

- because of low oil price: opportunities for big, efficient turbines
- wind energy only for the region if it is cheap or if new techniques for storage are available

Decentralized energy and other renewables

- hardly any opportunity

Biomass energy

- small scale and simple installations to produce local energy from local waste. (farmers and nature areas)

Development in future unlimited:

Wind mill manufacturing

- large off-shore plants (replacing some oil plants)
- pressure on on-shore parks in the region
- energy transport by ships and cables for hydrogen production
- export of turbines

Decentralized energy and other renewables

- niche market for reliable small scale production for e.g. islands
- good niche market: high demand, risk management

Biomass energy

- a few high tech installations to dispose of organic waste
- production of rape oil if there are low taxes on this source because global food production provides not used farmland

Development in satisfied citizens:

Wind mill manufacturing

- new turbines for exchange in the wind parks, probably less but bigger turbines; no replacement of single ones
- good support but not much money for small individual turbines
- relative good export market (known technology, good prices)

Decentralized energy and other renewables

- hardly any market

Biomass energy

- no market because the land is needed for agriculture

Development in challenging world:

Wind mill manufacturing

- good market
- small parks with big turbines on-shore close to the grid
- export to South America

Decentralized energy and other renewables

- solar collectors on 50% of the roofs for warm water and electricity
- all other on small scale, e.g. fuel cells

Biomass energy

- few high tech installations for bio-waste
- no rape oil production

Case 3. Coal and nuclear plants:

Development in cautious world, focus on coal

- coal plants are still running for economic reasons (employment)
- but there is quite pressure for abandoning because of ecological reasons
- high energy prices if new coal plants, but cheap electricity of existing ones

Development in challenging world, focus on nuclear energy

- demand and technological development of nuclear energy
- abandoning is postponed
- new nuclear plants under construction
- nuclear energy because of climate discussion, alternative for wind parks
- problems of nuclear waste storage, solutions postponed

7.2 Development and testing of sector specific strategies

On the basis of the results of the cases discussion, the participants carried out some important strategy elements which have to be further elaborated into sound strategies. The meeting agreed on the following elements, to be integrated in measures and policies:

- windmill parks: a strong need for reliable and accepted spatial plans for the implementation of large off-shore parks. The area of EEZ and North Sea has to be included in this.
- a connection to the existing grid for transport and storage must be guaranteed
- Wadden Sea – North Sea, facilities for export conditions are necessary for economic development
- WSR will be no key market for renewables although some small scale, decentralized plants on islands are possible
- consolidation of the WSR as an interesting region for research and innovative pilots
- usage of pilots as tourist attractions
 - solar collectors on roofs
 - fits in high quality/green facilities
- storage problems of produced renewable energy should be solved (support, subsidies?)
- storage of wind energy in Norwegian hydro installations
 - is this sustainable?
- helicopters for off-shore services could lead to impacts on people in the area, requirements of good service strategies
- financing and insuring off-shore wind parks is almost impossible, elaborate on risks
- avoidance of impacts of off-shore drilling, but also from on-shore to off-shore fields
 - new technologies
 - influence of sea level rise?
 - storage of CO₂ in gas fields
- there is a huge energy saving potential, this has to be used; need for regulations

Agenda item 8. Sustainability aims and indicators

Document: TG E 4-8.1 Sustainability aims

At the WSF-3 meeting a first discussion was held about sustainability aims and the results are summarized in a matrix (see document). The meeting took note of the matrix and discussed briefly some issues such as light and noise pollution with regard to the energy sector. It was stated that light pollution could be very well reduced by energy saving and street lighting concepts. The matrix will be further elaborated on the next meeting.

Agenda item 9. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 – 11 March in Oldenburg and will start at 10:30 hours.

Agenda item 10. Any other business

With regard to the communication strategy, the secretary informed the meeting that the secretariat will provide the sectors with ready-made articles and the offer to give presentations sectors meetings, if desired.

The members of the TG are requested to inform the secretariat, when information of the WSF work is welcomed or needed.

Agenda item 11. Closing

The secretary thanked all participants for coming and their cooperation, invited the meeting for lunch and closed the meeting at 14:00 hours on Wednesday, 14 January 2004.

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