

# ITRE Fact Sheet

## Committee on *Industry, Research and Energy*

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“The issue of EU member state cooperation in the development and distribution of energy infrastructure in the Baltic Sea Region”

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### Brief description of the issue

The committee's task is to come up with solutions for problems related to, or new methods for the **development and distribution of energy infrastructure** in the **Baltic Sea Region**, with an emphasis on aiming for a future of **democratic cooperation** and **cross border collaboration** in doing so.

### Key terms

- **Energy infrastructure:** “the organizational structure that enables the large-scale transportation of energy from producer to consumer, as well as the directing and managing of energy flow”
- **Baltic Sea Region:** In the context of this conference, this also refers to the countries that are included in *MEP* BSR conferences, not just the countries that border the Baltic Sea
- **Energy dependency:** refers to how much an economy depends on other countries to meet its energy needs
- **Democratic cooperation:** Planning and initiating plans amongst EU states through democratic processes, as to not undermine any EU state’s legitimacy
- **Cross border collaboration:** “a form of international cooperation, the main purpose of which is to remove restrictions arising from the existence of national borders”
- **Energy transition:** “Energy transition refers to the global energy sector's shift from fossil-based systems of energy production and consumption”
- **Maritime energy:** “A renewable power source that is harnessed from the natural movement of water, including waves, tides, and river and ocean currents”
- **Offshore wind parks:** “The generation of electricity through wind farms in bodies of water, usually at sea”
- **LNG:** “Liquefied natural gas produced by the method of fracking causing vast environmental damages”
- **Energy islands:** “Hubs that can create better connections between energy generated from offshore wind and the energy systems in the region around the two seas”
  - <https://ens.dk/en/our-responsibilities/energy-islands/denmarks-energy-islands>

## Main stakeholders and actors

- **The European Union:** The EU wants to increase the usage of offshore areas as a source of energy as stated in “An EU Strategy to harness the potential of offshore renewable energy for a climate neutral future” published in 2020 by the European Commission. The BSR is set to be one of the key regions in this project
- **Baltic Sea Region countries:** Many countries such as Germany, Finland and Latvia still rely on natural gas produced in Russia. Some have even made high investments in offshore pipelines such as the Nord Stream project before the Russian aggression on Ukraine. However, in every one of them, politicians are debating on alternative ways to cover the demand of energy especially through the cold winters. Of course, they do not only need to satisfy the civilian’s demand but even more so the industry’s.
- **Private landowners / civilians:** Some may argue that sustainable energy infrastructure disrupts the lives of civilians, or ruins the “aesthetic” value of environments (e.g. noise pollution from wind turbines). Solutions and developments in the energy infrastructure field are therefore very dependent on how such developments would affect the life quality of nearby communities.
  - [https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/infrastructure/public-acceptance-infrastructure-projects\\_en](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/infrastructure/public-acceptance-infrastructure-projects_en)
- **Russia:** Russian oligarchs with close relations to Vladimir Putin hold the majority of Russian gas production companies. The wealthiest one, Gazprom, is mostly state-owned and known for their active international lobbying activities. By exporting this source of energy not only to EU member states, the country, or more precisely its oligarchs, have created remarkable wealth. The EU is currently directing attention to its energy dependency in relation to these oligarchs.
- **Energy industry companies and executives:** With Total and BP, the EU is home to some of the world’s biggest fossil energy production companies.
- **NATO:** “Energy security plays an important role in the common security of NATO Allies. The disruption of energy supply could affect security within the societies of NATO member and partner countries, and have an impact on NATO's military operations. While these issues are primarily the responsibility of national governments, NATO Allies regularly consult on energy security to enhance Allied awareness and resilience.”

**To learn more about the positions that specific member states hold on this topic, follow this link:**

[https://energy.ec.europa.eu/energy-explained/energy-infrastructure-eu\\_en](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/energy-explained/energy-infrastructure-eu_en)

## Measures already in place

- **The Marienberg Declaration:** Agreement signed in 2022 between eight Baltic Sea countries (Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia) to build sevenfold the offshore wind capacity currently installed in the Baltic Sea by 2030 in order to minimize the reliance on Russian fossil fuels. Along with the offshore wind buildout, the leaders of the eight countries will also cooperate on grid interconnections and LNG as a go-to fuel in the short term.
  - [https://www.regeringen.dk/media/11544/the-marienberg-declaration-\\_300822.pdf](https://www.regeringen.dk/media/11544/the-marienberg-declaration-_300822.pdf)
- **The European Green Deal:** Presented in 2019 by the European Commission, already enumerates the development of a fully integrated, connected and digitalised European Energy Market as one of their main goals since the energetic sector causes more than 75% of all EU greenhouse emissions
  - [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)
- **Energy island Borholm (Denmark's energy islands):** “Energy Island Bornholm is one of two energy islands from the Danish Climate Agreement (June 2020)” Denmark has been paving the way for offshore energy infrastructure through their plans of investing in energy islands - one of which being Energy island Borholm.
  - <https://en.energinet.dk/infrastructure-projects/energy-islands/>

**To learn more about what specific member states are doing in terms of energy infrastructure, follow this link:**

[https://energy.ec.europa.eu/energy-explained/energy-infrastructure-eu\\_en](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/energy-explained/energy-infrastructure-eu_en)

## Stats and graphs

- This website tracks the latest gas demand of every EU member state:  
<https://www.bruegel.org/dataset/european-natural-gas-demand-tracker>
- Eurostat is a great official source for any data you need related to the EU. You just have to cope with the quite complicated looking website. Here is one useful statistic which can also be shown as a graph, a bar or a map:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/NRG\\_IND\\_REN/default/line?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/NRG_IND_REN/default/line?lang=en)
- Home link to Eurostat: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database>