Renewables Grid Initiative

MARINE GRID DECLARATION

Dated: 19 March 2019

Background

Marine power grids must be developed in line with climate change targets and marine conservation objectives

- The 2015 Paris Agreement calls for immediate action with respect to mitigating anthropogenic climate change, by establishing targets to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, with the ultimate target of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial temperatures, defined now as temperatures between years 1850-1900. The recently published IPCC special report on global warming concludes that not exceeding 1.5°C by the end of the century requires that global emissions drop to zero by 2050. The European Union (EU) accepts its fair share of the effort in limiting climate change (particularly given its greater than average historic emissions), indicative of the recently entered into force EU Climate Action Regulation and must therefore act fast to reduce emissions. The deployment of clean renewables and the consequent non-reliance on fossil-fuel power sources will support realising this and will contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change on humans, biodiversity and ecosystems.

- The European Union recently backed a binding, at least 32 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. This target is to be reviewed by the EU and revised upwards by 2023. Under this scenario, marine renewables are expected to represent a significant proportion of Europe's future renewable energy deployment. Furthermore, guided by the Trans-European Networks for Energy (TEN-E) regulations and the ambition to develop the European Internal Energy Market, grid developers are increasing the number of submarine direct current (DC) and prospective alternate current (AC) interconnectors. In this context, marine power grids must be strengthened and expanded to further integrate renewable electricity into the energy system. According to ENTSO-E's 2016 TYNDP, it is envisaged that about a third of future power grids could be built in the marine environment.

- Marine grids must, however, be deployed in an environmentally safe and sustainable way, in line with international commitments on biodiversity conservation, including through the Convention on Biological Diversity and UN Sustainable Development Goals. Taking an environmentally responsible approach to the deployment of marine power grids will ensure the protection of marine species, habitats and ecosystems, and minimise the risk of deployment delays for marine renewable sources. This requires determining best practice for marine grid planning and deployment, and finding new innovative approaches to establishing solutions and generating/sharing knowledge.

This Declaration will support the above ambitions for the marine environment by:

- **Setting a precedent for environmentally-sound, inclusive decision-making, also by contributing to the minimisation and where possible elimination of marine environmental impacts.** Guided by European legislation and broader international commitments for marine conservation, the Parties support and will seek the implementation of proper decision-making processes and environmentally sound and fair outcomes when undertaking marine grid activities.

- **In turn, encouraging cross-sector and international cooperation, knowledge generation and the provision of guidance, needed for timely marine grid deployment and marine conservation.** Cooperation and trust amongst all marine stakeholders are essential. Consideration of all stakeholder views when planning and undertaking grid activities is paramount; constructive cooperation with them will help to find better solutions and overcome challenges in case of competing interests and environmental protection. Similarly, knowledge generation on factors specific to marine grid development, as well as guidance to support best-practice in the marine environment, is essential. This Declaration intends to lay the foundation for realisation of these aforementioned factors, without compromising or undermining wider ambitions and targets, particularly those related to renewables deployment in the marine environment and marine conservation.

Objectives

- This Declaration establishes an agreed framework of principles which will guide the Parties in their efforts to avoid, minimise and where possible eliminate negative impacts on the marine environment resulting from marine grid activities. It intends to provide clarity on and support, coherent, effective and efficient planning and decision-making processes for electricity transmission infrastructure in the marine environment, which is needed to further integrate renewable energy generation and thereby achieve climate and energy targets. It also intends to strengthen commitments to developing joint solutions that support the achievement and compatibility of the aforementioned objectives.

Scope

- This Declaration applies to the protection of marine biodiversity, ecosystems and habitats that may be impacted by marine grid activities; by maintaining high environmental safeguards in grid development, it intends to also support the timely deployment of environmentally safe renewables in the marine environment – in an effort to decarbonise energy supply thereby helping to achieve climate targets.

- All relevant legislative and regulatory obligations at international, national and respective local levels must be complied with, with the European legislative framework as a reference point. This Declaration does not take precedence over these obligations. Standards established in international conventions should also be adhered to. In countries where regulations do not foresee and request implementation of the Principles stated below, capabilities necessary to support realisation of the Principles contained within this Declaration should be developed overtime.

- The content of this Declaration is intended to be relevant not only to European marine regions, but to marine areas globally. Best practice should also be applied to marine regions outside of national marine zones and exclusive economic zones (i.e. international waters).

- It is recognised that different Parties to this Declaration (i.e. TSOs/Project Developers, NGOs, etc.) shall play varying roles in achieving its Principles and commit in working together constructively and proactively to support realisation of the Principles.

- Reference to:
  - 'Marine power grid' refers to electricity transmission infrastructure, including supporting infrastructure (i.e. converter and transformation stations), however excluding electricity generation sources, in the marine environment.
  - 'Marine waters' infers 'waters' and 'coastal waters' as defined under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC.
  - 'Grid activities' infers the full lifecycle, including any constituent stage as indicated below, of electricity grid networks and associated infrastructure; e.g. pre-planning, planning, construction, operation, decommissioning and restoration in the marine environment.
  - 'Project developer' infers any organisation, other than a TSO, which may be involved in marine grid activities.
  - 'Region' – is meant as a neighbouring group of countries and/or a group of countries which share a common body of marine water.

Principles

1. Marine strategic and spatial planning

Marine strategic and spatial planning, and strategic environmental assessments

1.1 The Parties support an ecosystem-based approach, as established under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity, to the planning and management of grid activities and will consider environmental issues at the earliest stage of any marine grid planning.

1.2 Pursuant to the first point, the Parties commit to supporting implementation of principles defined in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, particularly in achieving and sustaining good environmental status of European marine waters, as well as the objectives set out in the EU Birds and Habitats Directives 2009/147/EC and 92/43/EEC, in particular achieving and maintaining the favourable conservation status of species and habitats.

1.3 The Parties support the use of marine spatial planning for marine grid activities, in accordance with the EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive 2014/89/EU. This includes, supporting establishment of a process that would enable EU Member States maritime spatial planning activities to (1) collect the needed data, (2) develop the needed spatial management measures, and (3) have in place a system of monitoring and enforcement of the plan.

1.4 The Parties recognise the importance of undertaking comprehensive ecological sensitivity mapping prior to marine spatial planning and support a regulatory framework that strengthens this. Such spatial mapping work should identify areas of high importance for species and habitats, as well as any uncertainties due to knowledge gaps.

1.5 Importantly, marine spatial planning for grid activities shall:

- Be based on best available science and mapping data, and a precautionary approach where data is missing.
- Preferably include long-term grid planning scenarios, up to and beyond 2050.
- Be undertaken at relevant planning scales, including at international (including with third party non-EU Member States, when required), regional, national and local levels.
- Involve cross-sector cooperation, including consideration of combined zoning arrangements with other marine sectors/ stakeholders, with consideration given on minimising cumulative environmental impacts and supporting biodiversity recovery.
- Consider also the consequential impacts of related energy infrastructure that a power grid project is anticipated to facilitate.
- Consider marine-land interactions, which includes the connection of marine grid network(s) to terrestrial network(s) at onshore landing points (to ensure complementarity with non-marine EU policy).

1.6 When undertaking marine spatial planning, the Parties will support the use of strategic environmental assessment as established under the EU SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, including when planning cross-border grid projects, as a means to find the most environmentally acceptable options with regard to marine biodiversity and marine protected areas.

1.7 Where it cannot be ruled out that a marine grid development plan is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites, such plans will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' as required under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Outside Natura 2000 areas, the SEA to be conducted will duly consider protected species and habitats.

Hierarchy of principles in marine infra-structure development

1.8 The Parties recognise that the need for new marine grid infrastructure development should be determined in a consistent, coherent and transparent planning process. All opportunities to meet the need for transmission with less infrastructure should be used fully.

1.9 TSOs and project developers shall follow the mitigation hierarchy of priorities as set out below, in order to avoid, minimise, and where possible eliminate, impacts on the marine environment. Subject and without prejudice to legislative and regulatory requirements, the priorities are:

- First – only building infrastructure that is deemed necessary to ensure a reliable decarbonised power system.
- Second – minimise the creation of new marine infrastructure corridor development by, if possible, optimising and bundling with new and existing marine infrastructure, provided this does not promote continued development in sensitive areas and impact adversely on marine biodiversity and environment conservation needs.
- Third – according to site-specific requirements, mitigate marine environmental impacts of new infrastructure where unavoidable, by utilising location and design options that first avoid impacts so far as is possible, then minimise remaining impacts. This should consider technical feasibility, system security and marine environmental impacts.

1.10 After all the above efforts have been applied, unavoidable impacts should be compensated for, in accordance with the legal, regulatory and consenting framework.

1.11 The Parties commit to work together constructively to support the application of the hierarchy of priorities at European, national and local levels.

Pre-application measures to expedite planning procedures

1.12 The Parties agree that it is important to take marine environmental concerns into account as early as possible in the planning procedures. Identifying and addressing marine environmental concerns in consultation with relevant stakeholders before submitting the actual planning application is likely to reduce delays later on. Meaningful involvement of relevant stakeholders at such an early stage will furthermore strengthen trust and support. Pilot applications of such approaches to marine infrastructure planning should be tested where legally possible and environmentally sound, and best practices shared regionally and internationally.

2. Marine project planning, impact mitigation and monitoring

Protecting marine biodiversity, as well as upholding legal provisions and international agreements

2.1 Pursuant to the first point on Marine Strategic and Spatial Planning, the Parties support implementation of principles defined under the ecosystem-based approach, when planning and undertaking project-level marine grid activities.

2.2 The Parties acknowledge the need for proactive ecological sensitivity mapping of marine species and habitats, and where sensitivity mapping has been undertaken prior to spatial planning, the Parties agree to use it to inform the identification of best practice options at the project level.

2.3 The parties support ex-ante evaluations which consider all potential risks and impacts of a grid development on the marine environment, including through the use of EIA.

2.4 TSOs and project developers will seek to avoid harm and minimise impacts to marine habitats and species protected under the Birds & Habitats (Nature) Directives and support the existing provisions in those Directives and their underlying principles. This includes the timely and full adherence to the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive regarding the appropriate assessment of grid development projects, as well as to the provisions of Nature Directives on strict protection of species.

2.5 The Parties will give attention to the following conventions, agreements and/or commitments in developing best practice approaches for marine grid deployment (including any subsequent amendments/recommendations):

The four European Regional Sea Conventions:

- The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the North-East Atlantic (the "OSPAR Convention" of 1992);
- The Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Baltic Sea Area (the "Helsinki Convention" of 1992, "HELCOM");
- The Convention for the Protection of Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the "Barcelona Convention" of 1995 – "UNEP-MAP");
- The Convention for the Protection of the Black Sea (the "Bucharest Convention" of 1992).

In addition to:

- The Geneva Conventions of the Continental Shelf and High Seas (1958);
- The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar Convention" of 1975);
- The UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (the "Espoo Convention" of 1991);
- Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (SEA Protocol);
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS" of 1982);
- The upcoming UNCLOS legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustain-

able use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ);
- The Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (the "London Convention and Protocol" of 1972);
- The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (the "Bonn Convention" of 1983), including agreements for the conservation of Cetaceans, African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds ("AEWA" of 1999) and Albatrosses and Petrels ("ACAP" of 2004);
- The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the "Bern Convention" of 1982);
- The governmental agreements within the Trilateral Cooperation on the Protection of the Wadden Sea.

2.6 Parties will seek the timely and efficient implementation of these legal provisions and agreements by:

- Identifying ways in which they can be met in full in the context of more effective and efficient planning processes.
- Working towards a common interpretation of the provisions as they apply to grid development.
- Addressing concerns relating to specific proposals at the earliest opportunity.
- Contributing to the identification of priority species and habitats that may be at risk from grid development and assist in pursuing these objectives.

2.7 The Parties will facilitate the ability for any relevant stakeholder(s) to provide meaningful contribution to the implementation of these legal provisions in a timely and efficient manner.

Marine permitting processes, including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for public and private projects

2.8 The Parties seek to improve understanding on, and support, marine permitting processes by:

- Supporting awareness amongst relevant marine stakeholders about marine permitting requirements, including for EIA and 'appropriate assessment' under the Habitats Directive.
- Promoting to legislative and administrative bodies the need for streamlined environmental assessment and marine permitting procedures which are straightforward and clear for developers to navigate, whilst also ensuring developers satisfactorily meet environmental safeguard requirements.
- Promoting regional/cross-border streamlining of marine permitting procedures, and voluntary standardisation when possible, particularly in relation to the level of detail required by authorities and duration. This should be done with a view to reducing complexity associated with cross-border regulatory processes, while ensuring these retain high environmental standards, and can be achieved for example via the establishment of a joint-body for transboundary procedures, the governance of which will need to be defined.

2.9 TSOs and project developers recognise the value of conducting EIA procedures, committing to:

- Support use of EIA to achieve a high-level of marine environmental protection.
- Inform and consult the public and the various authorities/bodies concerned in an early and timely manner on the project and its impacts.
- Use best practice in terms of the assessment of reasonable alternatives within an EIA, including to actively assess less damaging alternative technologies and routing options so that these can be taken into

consideration alongside marine environmental and social concerns by decision makers.
- Ensure professionals employed in the preparation and assessment of EIA reports are suitably qualified to address the likely significant marine ecological impacts of a proposal and its alternatives.
- Ensure professionals employed in the preparation of EIA reports understand the importance of providing full and objective scientific information, and work to avoid any unintentional incentives to understate significant marine environmental impacts.
- Ensure that any external professionals employed in the preparation of EIA report commit to following internal commitments and guidelines, including the principles defined in this Declaration.

The above cannot in all cases be achieved by TSOs and project developers alone but may need to be done together with the permitting/overarching authority/authorities.

Environmental management planning and impact mitigation

2.10 Environmental management plans and impact mitigation practices:

- The Parties support, where possible, the international standardisation of environmental management plans and mitigation practices, in order to better support knowledge sharing on best practices internationally, permitting the local adoption of effective plans and impact mitigation practices.
- Pursuant to the above point, the Parties will maintain the paramountcy of the mitigation hierarchy in any efforts to standardise mitigation processes internationally.
- Where environmental impacts resulting from grid activities are unavoidable, TSOs and project developers shall, in collaboration with ecological experts, identify and deliver appropriate mitigation measures to minimise or eliminate the anticipated impacts.
- For residual impacts, TSOs and project developers shall deliver appropriately located compensation measures, that effectively support achievement of regional/international biodiversity goals and conservation targets and shall respect the principle of prevention of further deterioration under Directive 2008/56/EC. Compensatory measures targeting Natura 2000 areas need to be implemented under the conditions and procedures as outlined in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. Considering the inherent difficulty and uncertainty of implementation of compensatory measures in the marine environment, the efficacy of such efforts would be assisted by identification and securing of areas that are best suited for the implementation of compensation measures, and the identification and quantification of the measures that would be required for the affected species and habitats.

Monitoring programmes – including monitoring the efficacy of mitigation measures

2.11 The Parties support:

- Undertaking marine environmental monitoring programmes, including monitoring the efficacy of environmental impact mitigation practices. This should be incorporated into early planning considerations and aim at furthering the understanding of which avoidance and mitigation practices are effective, the environmental impacts of marine grid infrastructure, and support information and data gathering.
- Where possible, standardising monitoring practices through consensus of ecological experts, in order to better support the sharing of effective monitoring practices cross-regionally/internationally, as well as relevant information and data, leading to improved environmental protection.
- Further incorporating biological monitoring initiatives into post-construction monitoring activities.

Full project lifecycle approach to assessment, mitigation and monitoring

2.12 The Parties support:

- Environmental impact assessments that consider the full lifecycle of a marine grid

project (i.e. life-cycle assessment which also considers the carbon footprint of a project).
- The delivery of measures that ensure effective mitigation of all impacts (including, but not limited to, pollution, noise, barrier effects, benthic habitat changes, electromagnetic fields) across the full lifecycle of the project, and
- Monitoring initiatives that run the full lifecycle of a marine grid project.

2.13 During decommissioning, the removal and recycling of valuable marine grid infrastructure should be a general rule. However, considerations for infrastructure decommissioning shall include whether the best option environmentally may be to leave some or all of the project infrastructure in situ (provided such materials are stable – i.e. are non-reacting with the marine environment indefinitely).

Existing grids and technology development

2.14 TSOs and project developers will seek new innovative solutions that integrate location-appropriate marine nature and biodiversity considerations into further development of transmission technology and design. NGOs will engage with such efforts by providing existing studies (e.g. on the effectiveness of mitigation measures) and proactively disseminating new knowledge and, where necessary, providing expert input where supported to do so.

2.15 NGOs, within their areas of expertise, will seek to contribute to studies and evaluations of marine biodiversity conservation in corridors of future and existing marine grid infrastructure.

3. Regulation of the marine environment

3.1 To effectively support protection of the marine environment resulting from grid activities, and the timely deployment of environmentally safe renewables needed to assist efforts in meeting ambitious climate targets, the Parties agree on the importance of:

- Promoting the regional/cross-border harmonisation of national/local marine regulation, in order to minimise cross-border variation and associated development complexities, costs and investment risks.
- Promoting the development of effective measures where regulatory gaps have been identified. This should be complemented by initiatives to ensure that knowledge creation and sharing on grid activities in the marine environment takes place particularly on associated environmental impacts, as well as to ensure protection of the marine environment resulting from marine grid activities.
- Promoting marine regulation knowledge sharing, especially regionally and internationally, in order to advance regional and international understandings on differing cross-border marine regulations.
- Promoting awareness of other regulatory frameworks with implications for the marine environment (such as other environmental, infrastructure, energy or heritage regulations), especially those which may impact the marine environment (such as through competing usage of marine resources) or marine grid deployment negatively.
- Sharing information on marine regulation as it is developed or updated, including implications for marine grid activities and the marine environment.

4. Transparency and stakeholder participation

Transparency of processes and decisions

4.1 The Parties support steps to provide clarity on decision-making processes by:

- Contributing to informing stakeholders about what decision will be taken at which point in time, including relevant public participation initiatives, consultation phases and deadlines.
- Communicating the purposes of public participation initiatives and consultations, and the rights and responsibilities of different stakeholders therein.
- Encouraging authorities to provide clarity on the criteria and weightings that drive decisions in the different phases of the decision-making.
- Clearly communicating decisions and their reasoning, including how input from public participation and stakeholder consultations has been taken into consideration and acted upon, in the form of a written report or statement.

4.2 Access to relevant information:

- The Parties agree on the need to provide data and information, in formats and through media that are convenient for competent authorities and diverse social groups; they intend to actively work on developing adequate formats and channels of communication to meet specific needs.
- They support provision of easily-accessible information, whenever possible via the internet; grid planning and project websites are useful tools to deliver such information.
- Where permitted, the Parties promote access to relevant information which guides decision making with respect to marine grid development, including for cost considerations and other data.

Initiatives to improve early stakeholder participation, including with public, environmental, institutional and other representatives

4.3 Early and meaningful involvement during the full planning phase to allow substantial participation:

4.3.1 Ensuring that stakeholder and local knowledge is brought into the discussions at an early stage can lead to decisions which are supported by a broader community. In addition, the involvement of stakeholders, including authorities from an early stage can reduce later disagreements and delays. The Parties therefore agree on the desirability and need to:

- Consider the utilisation of comprehensive and confidence-building approaches (such as using a neutral independent third-party convener, info-markets, workshops and planning forums) during the stakeholder consultation phase(s).
- Engage with relevant stakeholders, including institutional experts and vested cross-sectoral groups, from the pre-planning stage, so that their contributions can be considered early on, with subsequent development plans incorporating their position, thereby avoiding delays resulting from opposition groups at a later stage of a grid development.
- Ensure that during stakeholder consultation phases, sufficient information including project development roadmaps/frameworks and time, are provided to enable substantial input; and that time is allocated to discuss and explain resulting decisions.
- Support decision-making processes that integrate input from consulted stakeholders, into appropriate and/or relevant decision-making stages.
- Support fair opportunities for engagement, which are convenient and effective for as many as possible in society; this can be achieved by developing a “concept for stakeholder participation” for each project, with detailed stakeholder mapping

and identifying channels and formats to involve them from an early stage. Where necessary, this also includes the provision of non-biased financial support and encouraging fair access to engagement opportunities for relevant stakeholders.
- Promote the establishment, where necessary, and support the work of (i) strategic multi-stakeholder working groups to deal with questions of general relevance for marine grid development, and (ii) project-specific working groups specifically to find solutions on topics of local and regional concern.

4.4 Dialogue as a means to enhance relationships and build trust:

4.4.1 The Parties recognise that a culture of dialogue, debate and collaboration is necessary to find solutions that are widely acceptable, and will:

- Incorporate, or continue incorporating, this culture into participation and/or consultation approaches; and ensure communication of outcomes and/or solutions found during the consultation phases to the involved stakeholders and the public.
- Pursuant to the above point, organise dedicated participation and/or consultation session(s).

5. Marine knowledge creation, sharing and guidance

Access to knowledge on circumstances specific to the marine environment is needed, to assist collective efforts in minimising impacts. The Parties therefore support:

5.1 Furthering awareness of direct environmental impacts associated with marine grid development.

5.2 Knowledge creation and sharing, including vital investment in research where necessary, on circumstances specific to the marine environment and grid development. This includes (but not limited to):
- Possible environmental impacts associated with (but not limited to):
  - New infrastructure in the marine environment, including subsea cables and hard substrate(s);
  - Electromagnetic fields;
  - Thermal radiation, particularly when considering maximum utilisation of cables;
  - Noise;
  - Increased industrial activity associated with the grid development (e.g. boat/air traffic);
  - Varying grid installation technologies;
  - The decommissioning phase.

- The presence and lifecycles of all vulnerable species (including mammals);
- Cumulative impacts of current and future combined, cross-sector activities in the marine environment;
- Regeneration processes, including for benthic fauna and submerged vegetation;
- The differing marine consenting and permitting regimes across countries;
- Socio-economic impacts (i.e. on/from other sectors) resulting from/on marine grid activities.

5.3 The improved regional/international sharing and availability of knowledge, experiences and data from existing and future marine grid activities, especially from environmental impact assessments, impact mitigation and monitoring practices. This should lead to the improved awareness of effective impact mitigation, monitoring initiatives and other best practices being undertaken regionally/internationally, and what may therefore be applied locally (i.e. solutions sharing).

5.4 Pursuant to the above point, helping stakeholders from across Europe share knowledge, experiences and data.

5.5 Learning from global experiences and knowledge, as well as the associated global collaboration necessary in undertaking this.

5.6 The development of quality-assured guidance documents to inform best-practice approaches for marine grid activities, including for consenting and permitting processes in the marine environment (such as the EC guidance on 'Energy transmission infrastructure and EU nature legislation' C/2018/2620).

6. International and cross-sectoral cooperation

An international and cross-sectoral approach to cooperation in the marine environment

6.1 To promote implementation of the ecosystem-based approach on a regional/international level, the Parties support cooperation on a regional/international level when planning and undertaking marine grid activities, particularly for minimising environmental impacts, marine environmental impact assessment(s), management and mitigation initiatives, when it is considered there will be environmental impacts on a regional/international scale.

6.2 In-line with the above point, the Parties support cross-sectoral engagement and collaborative joint planning; including with fishing, shipping, recreational and other sectors, to sustainably manage marine waters, including its economic and social resources. This must be done with the view to minimise cumulative environmental impacts and support subsequent impact mitigation practices across all sectors.

6.3 To support the timely integration of renewable energy into European networks and the foreseen electrification of many economic sectors (such as shipping), the Parties commit to further international and cross-sector cooperation for the planning of marine electrical grid networks.

6.4 The Parties commit to cooperation on a regional/international level, to support the cross-border harmonisation of marine consenting and permitting processes, as well as environmental impact mitigation options if supportive of achieving good environmental status of marine waters.

6.5 The Parties support similar cooperation on a global level, to better permit realisation of EU biodiversity and climate targets, and similar global level commitments (such as the Paris Agreement), as well as to facilitate knowledge exchange and coordination globally in the best interest of these targets and commitments.

Parties to the Declaration

RGI Members:

Also signed by: