

Agenda

**Conference: Strong Winds, Thriving Seas**

30 October 2024 (in person)

Maison de la Poste – Rue Picard 7, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

9:30 to 16:30 (networking cocktails will follow)

Register [here](#)

9:30	Check-in & coffee
10:00	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cristina Simioli, Renewables Grid Initiative, Director – Offshore Energy and Nature</i></li> </ul>
10:10	<p><b>Inspiring Headliner: a wave of optimism for addressing the climate and biodiversity crises side-by-side</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Huub den Rooijen CBE, 3blue, Marine Advisor</i></li> </ul>
10:30	<p><b>Panel Discussion: Achieving a nature- and people-positive offshore energy future</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ariel Brunner, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, Regional Director</i></li> <li>• <i>Emma Hospes, Ørsted, Head of Strategic Environment &amp; Permitting and Biodiversity Programme</i></li> <li>• <i>Dr. Karsten Sach, GINGR, Chair of International Advisory Board</i></li> <li>• <i>Dr. Josien Steenbergen, Wageningen Marine Research, Program Manager Offshore Wind Farms</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Moderator</u>: <i>Cristina Simioli, Renewables Grid Initiative, Director – Offshore Energy and Nature</i></p>
11:30	<p><b>Tour of Offshore Energy and Nature Fair: sailing through solutions</b></p> <p><i>Organisations will showcase their practices on how nature can be protected, enhanced or restored in tandem with offshore wind and grid expansion in a dedicated area within the event.</i></p>
13:00	Lunch break

14:10	<p><b>Keynote: leadership to drive action for nature-friendly offshore wind and grids</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tinne Van der Straeten, Minister for Energy of Belgium</i></li> </ul>
14:20	<p><b>Panel Discussion: Navigating a path to 2030 – centering nature alongside offshore wind ambitions in European political agendas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Giles Dickson, WindEurope, CEO</i></li> <li>• <i>Ester Asin Martinez, WWF European Policy Office, Director</i></li> <li>• <i>Olivier Feix, Elia/50Hertz, Head of Strategy/Corporate Development</i></li> <li>• <i>Alwyn de Jong, SSE Renewables, Head of Corporate Affairs, Netherlands &amp; Northern Europe</i></li> <li>• <i>Maria Jimenez, Spanish Permanent Representation to the EU, Energy Coord. Counsellor</i></li> <li>• <i>Member of European Parliament and European Commission representative – TBC</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Moderator:</u> <i>Antonella Battaglini, Renewables Grid Initiative, CEO</i></p>
15:30	<p><b>Closing Panel: Celebrating our achievements – the role of OCEaN in facilitating common ground on nature-friendly offshore wind and grid deployment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Saskia Jaarsma, TenneT, Head of Offshore Development, Large Projects Offshore</i></li> <li>• <i>Ewout van Galen, the North Sea Foundation, Director</i></li> <li>• <i>Dr. Eva Julius-Philipp, Vattenfall, Director Environment &amp; Sustainability Unit BA Wind</i></li> <li>• <i>Nailia Dindarova, BlueFloat Energy, Chief Market Development Officer</i></li> <li>• <i>Mauro Randone, WWF Mediterranean Marine Initiative, Regional Projects Manager</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Moderator:</u> <i>Cristina Simioli, Renewables Grid Initiative, Director – Offshore Energy and Nature</i></p>
16:15	<p><b>Wrap-up &amp; Outlook</b></p>
16:30	<p>Networking cocktails</p>