

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
ŽYGMANTAS VAIČIŪNAS, ACTING MINISTER OF ENERGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LITHUANIA AND ZUHAL DEMIR, FLEMISH MINISTER OF JUSTICE, ENFORCEMENT,
ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND TOURISM ON COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF RENEWABLE
ENERGY**

Žygimantas Vaičiūnas, Acting Minister of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania and Zuhal Demir, Flemish Minister of Justice, Enforcement, Environment, Energy and Tourism (hereinafter referred to as "Participants"):

Recall that the Directive 2018/2001/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (hereinafter referred to as "Directive") provides for cooperation mechanisms between Member States,

Recall that according to the Belgian Special Law on Institutional Reforms the policy regarding renewable energy sources is within Belgium a regional competence,

Underline that cooperation mechanisms of the Directive should assist the Participants in exploiting renewable energy sources potential or contribute to compliance with the renewable energy targets or contributions of the Directive in a cost effective way,

Express their political will to develop and continue a cooperation on activities relating to renewable energy sources development beyond 2020, in particular with regard to the joint projects and statistical transfers (hereinafter referred to as "Joint activities") of the Directive,

Cooperate with the objective to realise in the future concrete joint investments in renewable energies, and notably working together on a joint offshore wind project which could benefit from EU funds,

Have come to the following declaration:

I. Objective

The Participants decide to facilitate a political cooperation in a mutually beneficial way on the Joint activities.

II. Scope

The Participants will engage in cooperation on the following scope:

1. The Lithuanian Participant will evaluate the national economic potential for the development of the Joint activities and will exchange information with the Flemish Participant;

2. The Participants will define the priority areas of Joint activities. The identification of priority areas should be determined upon the evaluation of the economic potential of Joint activities and may be approved by common agreement between authorised representatives;

3. The Participants decide to evaluate the initial framework conditions for the development of the Joint activities, in particular conditions of the Joint activities funding. Regulations regarding approval, implementation and funding of the Joint activities should be transparent and conform inter alia to national laws in the respective countries, public procurement and EU state aid rules;

4. The Participants decide that cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding in particular should include - subject to the legislation of the Republic of Lithuania and the Flemish Region - the following:

a) exchange of information on the potentials and opportunities of the Joint activities;

b) exchange of information on the subject of compliance with eligibility requirements for participation in the Joint activities;

c) exchange of information on sources and conditions of Joint activities funding and the policy framework needed to facilitate access to such funding sources;

d) exchange of information and views on potential investors and participants of the Joint activities;

e) conduct negotiations aiming to conclude a binding agreement for the post 2020 period, on joint offshore wind projects in the Baltic Sea and, in the case the Flemish participant identifies the need and the Lithuanian participant possesses the available resources, on statistical transfers of energy from renewable sources as provided for by Directive 2018/2001/EU.

4. The Participants decide that other European Union Member States may become Participants of this Memorandum of Understanding and may be involved in the Joint activities under the bilateral agreements after approval of the Participants.

III. Procedures

1. The Participants decide to consult regularly on the issues related to the Joint activities that occur within the cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding;

2. The Participants decide to designate one authorised representative from each side, who will function as direct Contact Point for all issues relating to the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding;

Two blue ink signatures are visible at the bottom left of the page. The first signature is a complex, circular scribble. The second signature is a simpler, more linear scribble.

3. The Participants inform each other in writing after signing this Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Contact Points;

4. The Participants will exchange information and views relevant to the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, whenever necessary, and may also hold meetings or videocalls.

iv. Entry into Force, Duration and Termination

1. The Memorandum of Understanding becomes effective on the date of signature and remains in effect for a period of two years. Unless one Participant notifies the other in writing two months in advance of its wish to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding it will be extended automatically for another year, on which occasion the Participants are required to formally state their willingness to renew this Memorandum of Understanding for further periods;

2. The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will neither affect Joint activities already implemented or agreed by the Participants nor jeopardize any future activities between Participants;

3. The present Memorandum of Understanding can be amended or adjusted consensually by the Participants in writing. The amendments and adjustments will be enclosed to the present Memorandum of Understanding and will form an integral part thereof.

v. Final Provisions

1. This Memorandum of Understanding is non-exclusive, allowing both Participants to enter into similar or non-similar agreements with other Member States or third countries.

2. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is strictly limited to express the desire of Participants for cooperation, and is not intended to impose any legal obligation of any nature on either Party.

This Memorandum of Understanding is signed in the English language.

....., 19 NOV. 2020

The Acting Minister of Energy
of the Republic of Lithuania



Žygitas Vaičiūnas

The Flemish Minister of Justice,
Enforcement, Environment, Energy
and Tourism



Zuhair Demir