



**EUROPEAN
OFFSHORE WIND 2009**
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New research – offshore energy plans would supply 10% of Europe’s electricity

New research findings - revealed today at Europe's biggest-ever gathering to plan the harnessing of its huge offshore wind energy potential - show that existing and planned European offshore wind projects would, if implemented, supply 10% of Europe's electricity whilst avoiding over 200 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions every year.

The full extent of existing and planned European offshore wind projects is outlined in a new report called 'Oceans of Opportunity', launched today by the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) at the conference in Stockholm.

"There is huge developer interest in offshore wind power" said Arthuros Zervos, President of the European Wind Energy Association. "The scale of planned projects is far greater than most people realise."

Taking part in the event 'European Offshore Wind 2009' organised by the European Wind Energy Association, are over 3,000 people. These include European Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs, Swedish Deputy Prime Minister and President of the EU Energy Ministers Council, Maud Olofsson and representatives of Europe's electricity producers and suppliers, wind energy equipment manufacturers and financial investors amongst others.

The report was backed by EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs who said "harnessing the winds off Europe's coasts – starting with the planned projects announced today by EWEA - would provide an answer to the global challenges of climate change, depleting indigenous energy resources, increasing fuel costs and the threat of energy supply disruptions. The European Commission is committed to doing everything we can to support offshore wind developers and make sure their planned projects come to fruition".

Minister Maud Olofsson agreed that "the resource is there and the developers are ready. Provided governments are ready to play their part, we can revolutionise Europe's energy future."

Other keynote speakers at the opening of the biennial event included Eamon Ryan, Irish Energy Minister and David Kidney from the UK's Department of Energy and Climate Change. The conference is being chaired by Andreas Nauen, CEO of Siemens Wind Power.

For more information on the new report: www.ewea.org/offshore

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Note to editors:

- EWEA is the voice of the wind industry, actively promoting the utilisation of wind power in Europe and worldwide. It now has over 600 members from almost 60 countries, including manufacturers with a 90% share of the world wind power market, plus component suppliers, research institutes, national wind and renewables associations, developers, electricity providers, finance and insurance companies and consultants. This combined strength makes EWEA the world's largest and most powerful wind energy network.

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