



ESIL INTEREST GROUP ON ENERGY AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Pre-conference workshop:

Floating offshore wind: the law and policy of an emerging technology

19th ESIL Annual Conference – Vilnius, 4 September 2024

Call for Papers

Floating offshore wind represents a significant advancement in the global transition towards sustainable energy. Unlike traditional bottom-fixed offshore wind turbines, which are fixed to the ocean floor and limited by water depth, floating turbines can be located in deeper waters, significantly increasing the potential for green electricity generation. The deployment of floating offshore wind allows for an expansion of the geographic potential of offshore wind energy beyond coastal waters and other areas with limited depth. It thereby provides an opportunity for numerous countries to increase their renewable energy capacity, by harnessing the wind potential in their maritime spaces. Beyond contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the deployment of offshore wind contributes to enhancing energy security, by diversifying energy sources and reducing dependency on imported fossil fuels. Moreover, the development, installation, and maintenance of floating offshore wind farms can foster the creation of new jobs, stimulating economic growth in coastal communities and beyond. At the same time, the development of offshore wind poses a wide range of regulatory and policy challenges, which only partially coincide with those related to traditional bottom-fixed offshore wind development, for instance in terms of maritime spatial planning, permitting, supply chain development, and auction models.

This pre-conference workshop is organized by the Interest Group on Energy and International Law on the occasion of the 19th ESIL Annual Conference. It aims to shed light on the regulatory challenges at the international, European, and national levels for the regulation of the floating offshore wind sector. The workshop is taking place in **Vilnius on Wednesday, 4th September 2024, 12:30-15:30 EEST**. Contributions are expected to explore issues related to policy developments, incentive mechanisms, regulatory frameworks, and the role of competent authorities, including:

- Management of maritime space (and of the infrastructure at sea, connections, substations, etc.): law and jurisprudence on the management of national maritime spaces and exclusive economic zones.
- Normative framework concerning the connection infrastructure.
- National targets and industrial policies to support the development of the floating offshore wind industry.

- Relevant incentive/taxation policies for the development of the supply chain (e.g. engineering, floater construction, component assembly, other), for the upgrading of infrastructure (e.g. ports, roads, other) and for the upskilling of local/national resources.
- Relevant state incentive/support policies for offshore wind project development.
- The role of port authorities: governance model adopted, areas of competence, funding/investment modalities foreseen for interventions, establishment of public-private partnerships.
- International and bilateral cooperation for the construction and operation of floating offshore wind farms, and for the development of an integrated supply chain (including ship logistics management, e.g. vessels, other).
- Market and auction models, including regulated vs. open-door schemes, as well as awarding criteria, including non-price criteria.
- Permitting procedures, including analysis of centralized one-stop-shop models and special procedures to accelerate the development of offshore wind, where applicable.
- State participation and co-ownership of floating offshore wind projects, also in light of energy security considerations.
- Legal tools to mitigate technological risk.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts (max. 300 words) is **Sunday, 28 April, at 23:59 CEST**. A first draft of the conference paper must be submitted by 21 August 2024. Selected applicants will be informed regarding the possibility of publishing the submitted conference papers in an edited volume.

Abstracts shall be sent via email in Pdf format, along with a short bio, to: alessandro.monti@jur.ku.dk.

Practical information

The Interest Group is unable to provide funding for travel and accommodation. Selected speakers will be expected to bear the costs of their own travel and accommodation. Some [ESIL travel grants](#) and [ESIL carers' grants](#) will be available to offer partial financial support to speakers who have exhausted other potential sources of funding.

Please see the [ESIL website](#) for all relevant information about the conference.

All participants at ESIL Interest Group workshops are required to register for the Annual Conference. There will be an option to register to attend only the IG workshops; however, all participants are warmly invited to attend the entire event.

Selected speakers should indicate their interest in being considered for the ESIL Early-Career Scholar Prize, if they meet the [eligibility conditions](#) as stated on the ESIL website. The [ESIL Secretariat](#) must be informed of all selected speakers who wish to be considered for the Prize before 30 April.

Your conveners:

Dr. Elena Cima, University of Geneva
 Prof. Ilaria Espa, Università della Svizzera Italiana
 Dr. Alessandro Monti, University of Copenhagen