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Background

A Political Declaration (cf. [Att.1: BEMIP offshore wind declaration](#)) with an aim to work towards increased offshore wind electricity supplies and better transmission infrastructure was recently signed within the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP). The countries involved in BEMIP agreed to work together to achieve a sustainable, cost-efficient and environmentally friendly deployment of offshore wind in the Baltic Sea and will develop a better coordinated approach to comprehensive planning and implementation in view of harnessing this potential whilst taking into account other uses of the sea and environmental protection.

BEMIP decided to create an offshore working group to start work as soon as possible and tasked the BEMIP High-level Group to adopt, in the Spring of 2021, a work programme for offshore wind development taking into account national policy plans of every Baltic Sea Region country and the EU policy developments in relation to renewable energy production.

The establishment of the offshore working group and a related work programme could provide opportunities for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group to have a Baltic Sea level dialogue with a network of authorities responsible for the offshore wind and grid developments. A need for such a dialogue with different sectors has been identified within the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group in relation to the contents of the new Regional MSP Roadmap. A dialogue with the energy sector authorities has been highlighted, for instance, when the Baltic LINes project recommendations were discussed during HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 19-2019 Meeting ([Outcome](#), para 3.5).

The BEMIP Political Declaration does not mention MSP explicitly, but information gained from the EU's DG ENERGY and the EUSBSR Policy Area Energy indicates that during the process towards the Political Declaration MSP was identified as an important process for offshore energy developments and the BEMIP members want to establish a sustained dialogue with the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group. They kindly asked if the Working Group has already some concrete ideas on the basis of which concrete discussions on MSP for the offshore wind work programme could start.

Action requested

The meeting is invited to:

- to take note of the recent Political Declaration by Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP)
- to comment a plan to establish a BEMIP offshore working group as a possibility for establishing a Baltic Sea level dialogue between MSP and energy authorities.
- to propose concrete ideas on how MSP could be linked to the BEMIP's offshore work programme.