



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

The Lord Ricketts GCMG GCVO
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
[Via Email]

Andrew Bowie MP

Minister for Nuclear and Renewables

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
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7th May 2024

Dear Lord Ricketts,

Thank you very much for the letter you sent to the Department on 21st June last year. I appreciate that you did not ask for a response to your letter, but in my role as Minister responsible for international energy, I wanted to provide you, and colleagues of the European Affairs Committee, with an update on our progress as participants of the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC).

In November last year, former Minister, Graham Stuart, attended the NSEC Ministerial meeting in the Hague, alongside ministers from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the European Commission.

At this meeting, Graham endorsed the NSEC 2023-2024 Action Agenda, which looks to lower barriers to the development of offshore wind projects, through sharing best-practice and speeding up permitting procedures, developing a more integrated offshore energy system, resilient supply chains, and a better balance between energy and nature in the North Seas through coordinated maritime spatial planning.

This year sees Denmark take over the Co-presidency of NSEC, alongside the European Commission. The Danish Co-presidency's priorities for the year include: Realising ambitions for offshore renewable infrastructure projects, strengthening European supply chains and industry, and an increased focus on offshore green hydrogen. On 19 February, I had a call with Lars Aagaard, Danish Minister for Climate, Energy, and Utilities, to discuss what we are both looking for from NSEC and, following this conversation, I am confident that Denmark's priorities align with our own.

I trust you will find this update useful, and we will continue to make the Committee aware of our progress in this important policy area.

Yours aye,

Andrew Bowie MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero