



Ministry of the  
**Economy, Finances and  
Industrial and Digital Sovereignty**

*Liberty Equality Fraternity*

**Directorate-General for energy and climate**

Paris, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024

The General Director

Government of Jersey  
**FAO** The Minister for the Environment  
Maritime House  
La Route du Port Elizabeth  
St Helier, Jersey

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your request for input into the Jersey Parliament Offshore Wind Project and we understand the strategic importance for the region of this project, which has a significant potential of one gigawatt, both in terms of renewable energy production and cross-border cooperation.

With regard to French energy policy; an ambitious approach has been taken to massively develop offshore wind power on the four seabords of our country, aiming for the allocation of 45 GW of offshore wind power by 2050, and an intermediate milestone set at 18 GW installed by 2035. From 20 November to 26 April 2024, a major debate, "la mer en debat" (a debate about the sea) was launched for the public and stakeholders in the sea.

These ambitions are accompanied by complex challenges, particularly in terms of integration into the electricity grid, management of marine resources, preservation of biodiversity, landscapes and cohabitation with other maritime uses, such as fishing.

For the two seabords which border Jersey which are the English Channel East – North Sea (MEMN) and the North Atlantic English Channel West (NAMO) the **objective of this public debate is to be able to draw up two maps of the priority areas for installation of the future wind turbines and their connection, according to the following provisional objectives:**

- New capacity to be allocated in the next 10 years: 7 to 11 GW in MEMN and 6 to 9.5 GW in NAMO;
- Cumulative installed capacity by 2050: 12 to 15.5 GW by 2050 in MEMN and 17 to 25 GW in **NAMO**.

It is therefore likely that new wind farms will be installed off the coast of northern Brittany, in the vicinity of the Jersey project area, within French territorial waters.

I invite you to contribute to this public debate in any way you may decide and undertake to ensure that your contributions will be carefully studied. In particular, it is possible to prepare stakeholder files or to participate in the various events organized in Normandy and Brittany (cf. <https://www.debatpublic.fr/la-mer-en-debat>).

With regard to the project off the coast of Jersey about which you have asked me, the French Government is expressing a desire for bilateral exchanges to be set up in order to work collectively on this issue and to study possible options in connection with offshore wind projects to be developed in French territorial waters. France is resolute in its intent to carefully consider the implications and opportunities of this project, in order to ensure the coherence of energy policies at both national and regional level. For France, the Directorate-General for Energy and Climate will be the main interlocutor on this subject. Your project also presents challenges for the maritime planning policy implemented in France by the Directorate General of Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The subject of a possible connection of the wind farms to the French electricity transmission grid managed by RTE, will need to be carefully studied. In particular, we will be attentive to the technical and timeline challenges faced by RTE, with regard to the robustness of the network in an area that is not very conducive to evacuation of new power to date, as well as to the financial implications of such a project. The complexities associated with the connection may require in-depth studies and substantial investments to ensure the stability and reliability of the French electricity grid. **To date, the conditions for a connection in France are not met and it seems likely that they will not be until 2035 at the earliest.** These considerations will need to be taken into account in future discussions.

Furthermore, we wish to emphasize the importance of the coexistence of uses and acceptability by sea users and sincerely hope that they are taken into account in the overall process of offshore wind power planning. In particular, we would like to draw your attention to the challenges facing the fishing sector.

Indeed, fisheries have been the subject of lengthy negotiations following Brexit and the subject is very politically sensitive. Jersey's waters carry considerable economic weight for the sector at regional level. It is important that fishing activities, particularly in the area of dragging, should be able to continue in accordance with historical precedents, as we have been able to do so for the wind farm off the coast of Saint-Brieuc. It is also important that the wind farm project is fully integrated into Jersey's maritime spatial planning, in particular for assessment of the overall impact of your strategy on the fisheries sector (including for France) and to ensure that the sector has sufficient visibility over the next few years.

Yours faithfully,

For the Minister and by delegation,

The Director-General for Energy and Climate,

A redacted signature block consisting of three horizontal black bars of varying lengths, completely obscuring the name and any handwritten notes of the signatory.