

Consultation - The Energy Transition Partnership for EU fisheries and aquaculture

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



Consultation: Energy Transition Partnership for the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector

On 21 February 2023, the European Commission adopted a [Communication on the energy transition in EU fisheries and aquaculture](#) as part of wider [Fisheries and Oceans Package](#). One of the key actions proposed in the Communication is setting up an Energy Transition Partnership for the energy transition in the sector together with a broad range of stakeholders. These stakeholders are notably, but not exclusively, fishers and aquaculture producers; the ancillary activities sector; the processing sector; fishing port authorities; shipbuilders; gear manufacturers; NGOs; research organisations; financial institutes; the energy and maritime transport sector; relevant EU agencies such as EMSA and EFCA, and national and regional public authorities.

On the 16 June 2023, the Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevičius, launched the process for setting up this Energy Transition Partnership together with the stakeholders. During the [launch event](#), stakeholder representatives initiated the discussions on some of the key topics that will be further deepened within the Partnership.

On the Energy Transition Partnership

The objective of the Energy Transition Partnership is to be a broad multi-stakeholder platform that will promote and facilitate knowledge sharing, discussion and cooperation on some of the crucial topics for accelerating the energy transition, such as finance, skills, technology, and research. This should result also

in the promotion and scaling-up of good practices throughout the EU.

To that end, the Partnership will act as the means to bring together all stakeholders that have a role in accelerating the energy transition in the sector. As one of the first and concrete deliverables, the Partnership will work on a roadmap to 2050 for the energy transition in the sector, with specific, measurable, and realistic milestones and actions.

The purpose of this consultation

The Energy Transition Partnership for EU fisheries and aquaculture will be set up for the stakeholders and with the stakeholders. Therefore, this consultation aims to gather input of the stakeholders on the following topics.

- Identify the preferred *modus operandi* of the Partnership.
- Identify key barriers for the energy transition in the sector.
- Identify the key topics to be discussed under the Partnership.

The results of the consultation, along with the panel discussions during the conference, will then be used by DG MARE to develop a Charter formally establish the Energy Transition Partnership. Note that the work under the Partnership and its deliverables will always remain non-legally binding and based on the voluntary engagement of the stakeholders.

Stakeholders who choose to endorse the Charter will be called to participate in workshops, consultation, and other activities on specific topics regarding the energy transition in the sector, starting from Autumn 2023.

Expression of Interest - Energy Transition Partnership for EU fisheries and aquaculture

Expression of Interest form

* Have you already expressed your interest in the Energy Transition Partnership? (e.g. through selecting this option in the registration form of the Conference on the energy transition in EU fisheries and aquaculture held on the 16th of June 2023)

- ☒ My organisation or me has/have already expressed interest in joining the Partnership.
- ☐ My organisation or me has/have not yet expressed its interest in joining the Partnership

Respondent details

* First name(s):

Mo

* Last name:

Mathies

* Email

mo.mathies@nwwac.ie

* Name of your organisation

North Western Waters Advisory Council

Stakeholder Type

- ☐ Authority/Government
- ☐ Company
- ☐ Consulting
- ☐ Freelancer
- ☐ Producers
- ☐ Professional organisation
- ☐ University/Research
- ☒ Other

Main area(s) of activity of your organisation

- ☒ Fisheries
- ☐ Aquaculture
- ☐ Ancillary sectors
- ☐ Processing
- ☐ Fishing ports
- ☐ Shipbuilding and shipyards
- ☐ Gear manufacturing
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Maritime transport
- ☐ Financing
- ☐ Energy
- ☒ EU policy
- ☐ National policy
- ☐ Regional policy
- ☐ Local policy
- ☐ Consulting

Countries your organisation is active in

- ☐ All 27 EU Member States
- ☐ Austria
- ☒ Belgium
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Croatia

- ☐ Cyprus
- ☐ Czechia
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Estonia
- ☐ Finland
- ☒ France
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Greece
- ☐ Hungary
- ☒ Ireland
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Latvia
- ☐ Lithuania
- ☐ Luxembourg
- ☐ Malta
- ☒ Netherlands
- ☐ Poland
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Romania
- ☐ Slovak Republic
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☒ Spain
- ☐ Sweden
- ☐ UK, Norway, Iceland
- ☐ Other Non-EU countries

Did you, or your organisation attend the launch event for the Energy Transition Partnership on the 16th of June?

- ☒ Yes, my organisation attended in-person
- ☐ Yes, my organisation followed the event online
- ☐ No

How do you rate the event?

Please motivate your answer

Consultation survey - Energy Transition Partnership for EU fisheries and aquaculture

You have been invited to take part in this consultation because you or your organisation has expressed its interest in participating in the Energy Transition Partnership. The consultation will consist of 10 questions, in 3 parts

- A. Organisation of the Energy Transition Partnership
- B. Key challenges for the energy transition in the sector
- C. Key priorities for the Energy Transition Partnership

A. Organisation of the Energy Transition Partnership

1. What are the preferred ways you or your organisation would like to interact with the Partnership?

- ☒ Online workshops
- ☐ In-person workshops
- ☒ Surveys and consultations
- ☒ Accessing information through a dedicated webpage
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Providing input on papers/reports
- ☐ Other

2. What are the main benefits your organisation expects to gain from the Partnership?

- ☐ Cooperating with stakeholders from a different sector
- ☒ Knowledge sharing across and within sectors
- ☒ Access to knowledge and data Sharing of best practices
- ☐ Finding investment opportunities
- ☐ Setting up new (e.g. interregional) cooperations
- ☐ Identifying research and innovation priorities
- ☐ Learning of latest relevant EU developments
- ☐ Representing the interest of my organisation in the Partnership
- ☒ Other

You selected "Other", please elaborate

Preparation of quality advice on policy and management to DG MARE

3. How often would you or your organisation be willing to participate in activities, such as meetings, workshops, and the preparation of content of the Partnership?

- ☐ Once a year
- ☒ 2-5 times per year
- ☐ More than 5 times per year

4. From the perspective of your own organisation, which are the 3 key stakeholders you seek to interact with in the energy transition in the sector?

at most 3 choice(s)

- ☐ Fishers and aquaculture producers
- ☐ The ancillary activities sector
- ☐ The processing sector
- ☐ Fishing port authorities

- ☐ Shipbuilders
- ☐ Gear manufacturers
- ☒ NGOs
- ☒ Research organisations and academia
- ☐ Financial institutions
- ☐ The energy sector
- ☒ National and regional public authorities
- ☐ Maritime transport sector
- ☐ Other

You selected "Other", please elaborate

B. Key barriers for the energy transition in the sector

1. What do you see as the 3 main barriers for the energy transition in the fisheries and aquaculture sector?

at most 3 choice(s)

- ☒ Availability of financing opportunities
- ☐ Access to financing opportunities
- ☒ Regulatory barriers
- ☐ Generation renewal
- ☐ Uncertainty about the future of the sector
- ☐ The current economic performance of the fleet
- ☒ A lack of available market-ready technologies (including gears, engines, digital technologies, etc.)
- ☐ A lack of available port and fuelling infrastructure
- ☐ A lack of knowledge and/or awareness
- ☐ A lack of innovation in the sector
- ☐ A lack of skills in the sector and ancillary sectors, for adopting, operating, and maintaining new technologies /techniques
- ☐ Other

You selected "Other", please elaborate

2. How do you assess the current of energy efficiency measures for the sector? (e.g. gears, engine modernisation, digital solutions etc.)

	Very low	Low	Medium /Neutral	High	Very high
Energy efficient gears (i.e. with lower hydrodynamic drag)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Energy efficient fishing techniques	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Digital and monitoring tools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Energy-efficient on-board equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy efficient hull design	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Energy efficient fossil fuel propulsion systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assisted propulsion systems (e.g. wind-assisted propulsion)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. How do you assess the current technology-readiness of alternative and low-carbon energy solutions for the sector?

	Very low	Low	Medium /Neutral	High	Very high
Electric propulsion	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hybrid propulsion systems (e.g. diesel-electric)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hydrogen	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ammonia	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(synthetic) biofuels and e-fuels	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. If you wish, please reflect shortly (max. 150 words) on the main challenges and barriers for the energy transition in the sector.

The fishing industry can only make this transition when an alternative option becomes available at a commercially viable level.

It is important that the fisheries sector receives adequate funding to ensure that its needs are examined in the developments of these new technologies.

EU fishing companies are continually devising and implementing creative solutions to save energy. However, the current technologies are still not a direct alternative to fossil fuels, and while the industry is trying to reduce its environmental impact by improving engine and gear efficiency, more knowledge is needed regarding technological possibilities to have a real breakthrough technology adapted to the size and diversity of fishing vessels.

In the case of a shift towards alternative fuels, several logistic issues need to be considered in relation to marketing, ports equipment (charging stations, LNG storage, etc.), maintenance and crew training.

The limitations on vessels tonnage and propulsive power from the 1992 CFP reform does not anticipate the implementation of new technologies (LNG, hydrogen, etc.) and does not consider the search for better energy efficiency beyond the current mandatory standard.

C. Key topics for the Partnership

1. What should be the main priorities for the Partnership to start working on?

- ☒ Identifying research and innovation priorities
- ☒ Identifying the best technologies that can be used in the sector
- ☒ Better identifying and understanding current barriers for the energy transition in the sector
- ☒ Better mapping the available financing and funding opportunities

- ☐ Understanding how to develop the right skills in the sector
- ☐ Identifying other areas with whom possible synergies are possible
- ☐ Promoting knowledge exchange
- ☐ Other

You selected "Other", please elaborate

2. Are you aware of any best practices for the energy transition in the sector that you would like other stakeholders to be aware of? Please provide a link or upload a document.

Please upload your file(s)

End of the survey

Is there any other final comment or suggestion that you have for setting up the Partnership? Please elaborate in max. 200 words.

Please note the NWWAC's feedback on the call for evidence for the initiative "Energy transition of EU fisheries and aquaculture sector" which can be found here: https://www.nwwac.org/_fileupload/Opinions%20and%20Advice/Year%2018/NWWAC_feedback_decarbonisation_Dec2022_EN.pdf

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Background Documents

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