

International Regulators Forum Offshore Renewable Energy Subcommittee

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

13 November 2024

The inaugural Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the International Regulators' Forum Offshore Renewable Energy Subcommittee (IRFORES) was held on 29 October 2024 in Dublin, Ireland.

The meeting brought together members who are offshore health and safety regulator leaders from Australia (Chair), Canada, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and the United States, with observers from Germany, Ireland, and Brazil attending either in person or online

Key Discussions:

- Member countries provided written reports on key priorities, governance, regulatory frameworks, incidents, and emerging trends. Attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions and request additional information from the respective jurisdictions
- Updates were given from related forums: Global Offshore Wind Regulators Forum (Australia), Arctic Offshore Regulatory Forum (Norway), and North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum (Norway)
- UK presented on emerging challenges in floating offshore wind, emphasizing risks related to mooring integrity, hull structural integrity, and the potential for major accident events
- US shared insights on outcomes-based regulation, stressing the importance of safety management systems, flexible risk management, and early-stage developer-regulator engagement
- Netherlands discussed their transition from an industry-led to a plan-led leasing and consenting system for offshore wind, detailing the roles of regulatory authorities. Key topics included the administration of safety zones and the role of third-party certification and verification in design, and the future development of the Dutch offshore wind sector
- Norway presented on their developing offshore wind regulatory framework, emphasising stakeholder involvement in regulatory design and risk-based regulatory approaches
- GWO discussed workforce needs and the importance of standardising health and safety training to facilitate workforce mobility
- G+ shared their work in incident data collection and safety guideline development, highlighting the role of collaboration between safety organisations and regulators

Key Outcomes:

- Members unanimously supported continuing the group's development and maintaining engagement.
- Identify future topics for focused working groups such as safety by design and design principles for floating turbines, compliance monitoring, standardisation of technical and operational standards, and increased regulatory collaboration
- Actions include coordinating feedback from forum members on work health and safety initiatives and exploring the formation of technical working groups.