WindEurope's recommendations for the "[Action plan on the digitalisation of the energy sector](#)", published by the European Commision on the 27 July 2021, aiming at developing a competitive market for digital energy services and digital energy infrastructure.

WindEurope welcomes the European Commission initiative to develop an action plan for taking concrete policy measures to ensure that new markets based on energy data are open and competitive, respecting ethics, data protection and privacy and cybersecurity, and considering the specificity of the energy sector. We want to raise your attention to the following areas that should also be on the focus in addition to the five areas outlined in the communicated action plan:

- **Need for commonly used data taxonomy and standards.** A cornerstone in the development of a European data-sharing infrastructure will be the development and wide deployment of common energy data taxonomy and data standards. The first objective of the action plan should pay specific attention to this important initial step and its coordination for the energy sector and its sub-sectors. In a European data-sharing infrastructure, the introduction of a 'digital energy vocabulary' is essential to develop and promote efficient cross-energy sector digital platforms. The digital integration of systems and sectors thanks to data sharing and cooporation between individual parties can only be successful if based on commonly aggreed and used data labeling. This will maximise efficiency and reduce risks of data sharing including data quality and confidentiality. Practically labels and groups of data entries should be developed to enable concrete communication among stakeholders.

- **Strategies to address skill gaps.** Another crucial area is the development of necessary skills that can support the transition to the digitised energy sector. The energy sector is still in shortage of human resources combining deep understanding of technical parameters of the different energy subsectors and expertise to develop but also to deploy the new digital tools. The introduction of digital tools, hardware and software, will necessitate a classification of the skills that will be required and concrete strategies to develop these in the long term.

- **Focusing on the safety and well-being of energy staff.** By developing integrated solutions and digital tools that can support emergency situations, efficiently exchange of data with other relevant sectors (e.g., aviation, military) and improve every day life conditions i.e., in offshore energy assets. This need will become prevalent for the offshore energy sector.

- **Sustainable digitalisation:** Further to the development and uptake of climate neutral solutions for the Information and Communication Technologies, the action plan should also look into minimising the carbon footprint of the digital transformation overall. This goal should address the development of new tools and technologies (low carbon footprint equipment and sustainable manufacturing process, recyclability, circularity), but also strategies for their optimised integration into the digital system and for the development of energy efficient data storage infrastructure.

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