WindEurope Statement: Ukraine and beyond: Energy policy is security policy

The European wind energy community is deeply saddened by the invasion of Ukraine. As an industry that has companies, partner associations and colleagues operating in Ukraine, we stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

The last days are a cruel reminder that energy policy is security policy.

The invasion highlights the urgent need for the European Union to reduce its dependence on fossil fuel imports from Russia and elsewhere. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in today's speech in the European Parliament said: "Less dependency on Russian gas and other fossil fuel sources also means less money for the Kremlin's war chest."

Accelerating the transition to renewables is now more essential than ever – to boost Europe's energy security and to help mitigate long-term electricity price risks for European companies and households. Against this backdrop, Germany's Finance Minister Christian Lindner recently called renewables "freedom energies".

The rapid expansion of wind and solar is key to increase Europe's energy security. After yesterday Energy Council meeting, EU Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson said the EU now needed to "expand renewables as fast as technologically possible". Already ahead of the meeting Germany's Energy Minister Robert Habeck said: "The expansion of renewables is a question of national and European security".

And wind and solar can and will accelerate their rate of deployment. By the end of this year, they can jointly deploy up to 54 GW of new capacity in Europe.

European domestic energy production is a fundamental strategic decision. The EU and European Governments need to urgently step up and unlock the massive potential of wind energy by:

1) **Frontloading investments in renewable energies now.** Renewables are cheap and scalable. They are the fastest way to reduce fossil fuel dependencies.
2) **Simplifying the permitting of wind energy projects.** Today permitting processes are too long and complex. Only sufficient permits for new projects will enable Europe to accelerated RES deployment.
3) **Strengthening European renewable manufacturing**. To accelerate the speed of renewable energy deployment, our European supply chain has to be strengthened.

In line with the Green Deal objective of climate neutrality by 2050, accelerating the energy transition with wind energy at its core ensures energy security, prosperity, employment and peace in Europe.