



Danish Minister Cancels all Renewable Energy Development Programmes

The new right-wing Government in Denmark is cancelling all renewable energy development programmes in its new finance bill presented to the Folketing (Parliament) on 29 January 2002.

This is part of a general budget-axing policy which should increase funds for hospitals and senior citizens without tax increases.

This terminates 20 years of finance for international standardisation, certification and type approval for wind turbines under this programme.

"The cost of this programme is very small, only about 2 million EUR/year", says Soren Krohn, director general of the Danish Wind Industry Association, "but the money has been well spent in key areas, which are important to the wind industry. This seems like a very expensive way of saving money for the Government".

The Danish Approval Scheme for Wind Turbines is recognised globally, and a substantial amount of basic research from Risoe National Laboratory has gone into the development of these standards, which have been essential to the cost-effective development of wind turbines. The Danish certification system has been essential in obtaining confidence for investors in wind energy world wide.

"The Danish type approval scheme was important in securing a 50% share of the market in California for Danish wind turbines in the early 1980s. Subsequently the programme has been the basis for development of new standards for wind turbines offshore", says Soren Krohn.

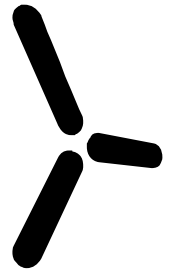
Soren Krohn notes: "Some important technological spin-offs from the first two large Danish offshore wind farms are about to be wasted. There has been a close coordination of the research programmes for the first five wind parks: The Rødsand wind farm would be used to study seals' behaviour, the Læsøe wind farm would be used for studying the behaviour of black ducks (*Molissima Nigra*), the Horns Rev project should give us very important data on array losses from wind turbines offshore, etc. But the owner of the Horns Rev project has no interest in continuing this research, now that the possibility of building another wind farm offshore has been cancelled hence there is no substitute for public co-financing for these projects".

"The new Danish Minister for Industry is about to throw the technology benefits of offshore wind overboard",

Finally, the Danish Renewable Energy Development Programme has co-funded the development of internationally recognised IT products for the wind sector, such as WAsP and the widely used wind installation planning and projecting software WindPro. Methodologies for environmental assessment have been developed under this programme, and finally a number of product development projects have been co-funded with small and medium sized companies in the wind industry sector.

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The programme has also co-funded the development of educational material such as **Wind With Miller** (30,000 EUR) and other public information on renewables. (31 January 2002)