

Opening Statement of Dr. Stefan Kaufmann, Innovation Commissioner for Green Hydrogen, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Topic: Accelerating and achieving the full potential of Irelands offshore wind resource (floating/fixed & east coast/ west coast), supply chain/logistics development and green hydrogen, with a view to providing Irelands needs but also contributing to the European and global demand for lean energy.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this statement to you today. It is a pleasure to connect with my associates in Ireland again on this important topic of hydrogen.

As part of my role as Innovation Commissioner for Green Hydrogen at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, I meet with prospective partner countries to discuss potential cooperation in the field of green hydrogen. This is because our country remains an energy importer and will be dependent on the import of renewable energies in the future.

In October 2021 my team and I visited Ireland. The German Irish Chamber of Industry and Commerce organized a very intensive meeting schedule over the course of two days so that we could better understand Ireland's potential for hydrogen production and potential export to Germany.

On this occasion, we had the opportunity to meet with Minister Eamon Ryan and his team, leading academics on the topic of hydrogen, including James Carton who I believe is with you today, utility companies Bord na Mona and ESB, and a number of other companies with interest in the field such as Dublin Bus, BOC Linde, Wind Energy Ireland, SEAI, IDA and your energy regulator.

Seeing first-hand the experience you gained with the use of hydrogen as an alternative fuel was of great interest to us. While visiting BOC Linde's offices, we got to see the refuelling of one of Dublin Bus' three hydrogen fuel cell electric double-decker buses now running in the Greater Dublin Area.

What was clear during our visit is that Ireland has the potential to be a significant player in the world of hydrogen. We learned about the wind resources off the Atlantic coast in particular, potentially reaching up to 70GW of wind power. We also met with hydrogen project developers such as Valentia Island Energy and EI-H2 who presented their proposed plans for hydrogen production off the south coast.

German-Irish cooperation in energy dates back almost 100 years. While in Limerick for a meeting with ESB, we visited Ardnacrusha Hydro Electric power plant on the River Shannon, Ireland's first power plant. As a great example of German-Irish cooperation in this field, it was built in partnership with German engineers and the Siemens turbines that were installed there are still in operation today.

It is my belief that hydrogen could herald a new era of German Irish partnership in the energy sector. We were delighted that following our visit to Ireland the German Irish Hydrogen Council was formed because it gives us a focal point to continue discussions with Ireland about hydrogen. We discussed with the Council areas of research that would be of mutual interest to Germany and Ireland and welcomed the response we got.

As an island nation, one of Ireland's greatest challenges is delivering the excess hydrogen it will produce to markets in mainland Europe. My department is currently preparing a proposal to conduct a study in partnership with Ireland on an end to end study on delivering Irish green hydrogen from Ireland's producers to German ports or the European mainland. We feel that this

proposal could become the first initial step in forming a deeper and on going relationship with Ireland in the field of green hydrogen.

I once again thank you for the opportunity to participate today and I wish you a very successful and productive meeting.