



Potential for blue growth: an EU approach

Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories
of the European Union

Pays et Territoires d'Outre-Mer

Brussels, 21 February 2017

Xavier GUILLOU – Maritime Policy
and Blue Economy

DG MARE - European Commission



European
Commission

Why?

Blue Growth is the European Commission's initiative to further harness the potential of Europe's oceans, seas and coasts for:



Five sectors with high potential for sustainable Blue Growth are to be further developed:





Energy from the ocean

Last untapped renewable source

Predictable: tidal, wave, Ocean thermal energy conversion, salinity gradient

Decarbonising our economy

Diversification of energy sources

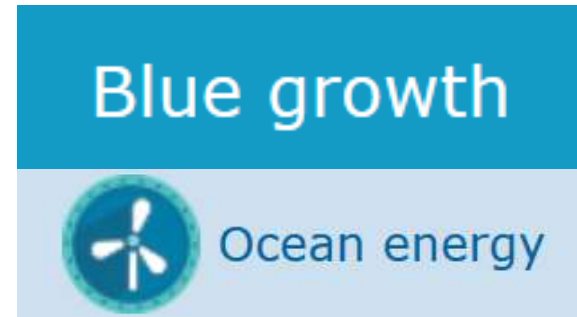
Blue growth and local jobs

Ambitious EU policies and targets

EU Policy drivers for ocean energy



**Demonstrating
global
leadership in
renewables**





Ocean energy matches with the EU core priorities, in terms of jobs, investment, energy and climate

Communication on Blue Energy (2014): Actions needed to deliver on the potential of ocean energy in European seas and oceans by 2020 and beyond

Ocean Energy Forum

OCEAN ENERGY STRATEGIC ROADMAP BUILDING OCEAN ENERGY FOR EUROPE



Scaling up advanced technologies and projects and reduce costs

Finance and insurance

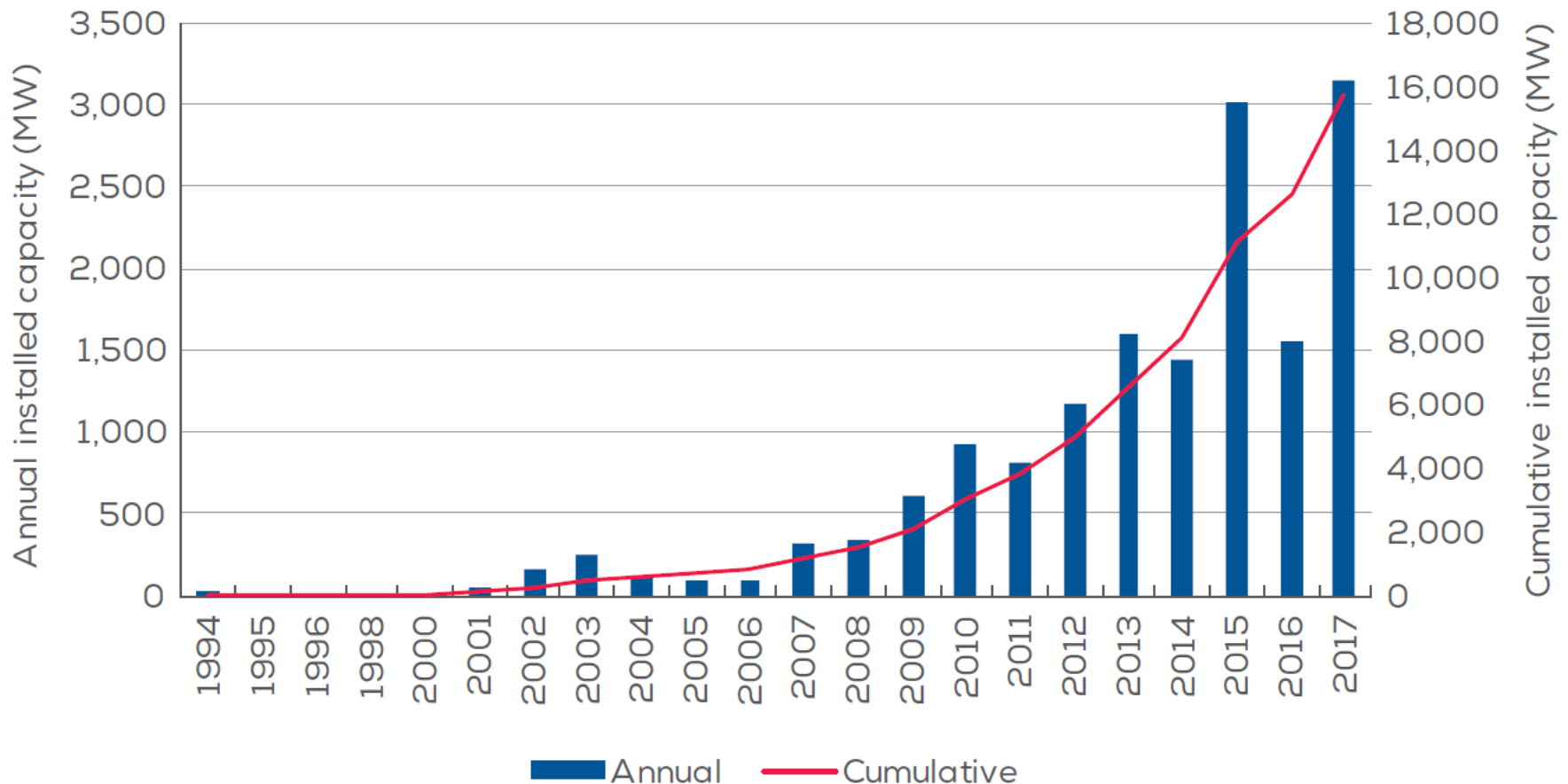
Improve knowledge on environmental impacts and de-risking licencing

Lessons to learn from other renewables industry:

- Policy stability needed
- Upfront capital intensive
- Ocean energy to benefit from research and development of infrastructures and management (grid, storage, ...)
- But also competition with other renewable energy sectors

Benchmarking with offshore wind

Cumulative and annual offshore wind installations (MW)



Challenges



Emerging technology = *nearly everything needs to be developed from scratch and at the same time*

Technology: reliability and survivability in harsh conditions

=> *Working in the ocean is complex and costly*

Finance: bankability

Environment: First deployments are without precedent,
Maritime spatial planning



How is the EU providing support?

- Research and Development: on going EUR 120 million of projects (FP7 and H2020), Innovfin EDP
- NER 300, Innovation Fund
- European Structural and Investment Funds:
Regional development funds, Interreg, maritime funds (EMFF blue calls, skills, environmental monitoring...)
- European Fund for Strategic Investments



Malta declaration in May 2017

Inaugural high level forum in September 2017

Dedicated platform and research programmes as from
spring 2018

Ocean energy developers have a strategic focus on islands