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## Repeated Recommendations: “We have seen this before.”

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On March 12, the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) published the "Wind Action Plan," setting out emergency policy measures for governments to accelerate wind energy deployment and strengthen their energy resilience<sup>1</sup>. Amid the economic impact on consumers and businesses caused by the Middle East conflict and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, which has strained oil and gas markets, the GWEC has proposed a five-point action plan to governments to quickly introduce "ready-to-build" wind power that can be produced domestically at an affordable price, as follows:

1. Fast-track emergency permitting: Accelerate regulatory approvals by urgently streamlining permitting and consenting procedures for wind, renewables and storage projects to deliver a major expansion of capacity within the next 36 months.
2. Address grid and storage blockers: Optimizing the power System, including the power grid and energy storage systems, establishing preferential transmission guarantees for renewable energy, including wind power.
3. Mobilize financing: Unlock and de-risk public and private investment for wind and other renewable energy projects and associated infrastructure, by introducing preferential interest rates and financing, decreasing financial institution lending limits, creating renewable lending windows, and redirecting capital away from carbon intensive industries.
4. Move swiftly to electrification: Introduce and implement national strategies to reduce fossil fuel dependence by accelerating end-use electrification and system integration across transport, heating and industry, supported by flexibility markets, demand response and short- and long-duration energy storage.
5. Establishing supply chain development strategies: Create clear demand signals and offtake frameworks, increase pipeline visibility, and generate long-term revenue certainty, to promote necessary investments in critical manufacturing and labor force capacity.

The content of these proposals is not particularly new. They are indeed sound arguments, and it is exactly "When should you say it? Now!"

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<sup>1</sup> GWEC, “GWEC launches Wind Action Plan to break the cycle of energy crises”, 2026-3-12,  
<https://www.gwec.net/news/gwec-launches-wind-action-plan-to-break-the-cycle-of-energy-crises>

What's interesting is this phrase in the proposal document: "We have seen this before", as if they are saying, "This has surely happened before (déjà-vu). Citing the oil shocks caused by the Middle East situation in the 1970s, the Gulf War in 1990, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the report states, "This pattern has become a feature of the fossil fuel economy, demonstrating how quickly geopolitical conflicts can send fossil fuel prices surging, forcing governments to step in to shield consumers from high inflation." It then warns, "Energy systems that are heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels will remain exposed to geopolitical chokepoints, recurrent supply disruptions and price volatility, posing a direct threat to energy security." Therefore, it concludes that diversifying energy sources, especially securing domestic renewable energy, serves as "a strategic hedge."

"The Strategic Energy Plan of Japan," which is revised every three to four years, states that "Japan lacks readily available resources and... faces vulnerabilities in ensuring a stable energy supply... It is necessary to restructure policies that focus on securing a stable energy supply, and to enhance the resilience of the multi-layered energy supply system so that it can function properly not only in normal times, but also in times of emergency." We all would wholeheartedly agree with the GWEC's assertion above. We are now confronted with the reality that "it will be too late to panic when an emergency occurs, so it is important to prepare for resilience from normal times."

It seems that not only the industrial sector but also the government is calling for the expansion of wind power in light of this situation. German Minister of Economy and Energy, Reiche, who participated in the international energy conference "CERA Week" held in Houston, USA from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, announced that Germany will increase onshore wind auction volumes up to 2030 by an additional 12 GW. She reportedly made the following statement as a direct response to the recent blockade of the Hormuz Strait and the surge in international fossil fuel prices: "The additional 12 GW of onshore wind are key to the resilience of Germany's energy system and an important signal for Germany's wider industry."<sup>2</sup>

This comment is part of a series of provocative statements suggesting that, in light of the current uncertain energy crisis, it is necessary to re-examine various targets, including the "net-zero target by 2050," which forms the core of the EU's environmental policy. While it seems to express a wish list, how realistic is it?

Germany's wind power capacity is approximately 72.7 GW at the end of 2024<sup>3</sup>. As Germany has the world's third-largest wind power capacity and possesses the domestic manufacturing capability for complete wind power systems, an additional 12 GW by 2030 might be possible. However, if it goes to a bidding process, it will become a price competition with other power sources, and cheaper power

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<sup>2</sup> Wind Europe, "Germany and the UK boost wind energy as response to energy crisis", 2026-3-25, <<https://windeurope.org/news/germany-and-the-uk-boost-wind-energy-as-response-to-energy-crisis/>>.

<sup>3</sup> BWE, "German wind energy in numbers", <https://www.wind-energie.de/english/statistics/statistics-germany/>

sources will be contested with neighboring countries. There seems to be a lack of justification for realizing this wish.

And this statement of Minister Reiche also makes me recall, “We have seen this before.”

In Germany in 2022, a heated debate was raging, dividing public opinion, over the deadline of the end of that year for the "shutdown of all nuclear power plants." In October 2022, the German government, after much anguish, decided to postpone the date of nuclear phase-out—a national aspiration since the 1980s—from the end of 2022 to April 15, 2023<sup>4</sup>. Since February 2022, Germany, whose supply of Russian gas had been cut off, had implemented a series of emergency measures, such as increasing coal-fired power generation and reducing gas demand. However, these measures were insufficient to cope with the sudden energy crisis, and they were finally forced to resort to a "forbidden measure."

At that time, I was really about to say to proud Germans, “Hey, do you know a Japanese proverb, ‘Catch the thief and make the rope’ ?” even though it was too sorry for them. (Meanwhile, an English proverb with a similar meaning is ‘Lock the stable door after the horse has been stolen’.)

I would still say the same thing to German Minister Reiche and as well, those involved, including my own country and myself. “It’s too late to make the rope after you have caught the thief.”

Perhaps that is exactly why the GWEC and other organizations repeat similar recommendations and proposals, even though they are not particularly new.

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<sup>4</sup> Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, “Cabinet adopts revision to the Atomic Energy Act”, 2022-10-9, <https://www.bundeswirtschaftsministerium.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2022/10/20221019-cabinet-adopts-revision-to-the-atomic-energy-act.html>