



Press Release

Utrecht (NL), January 12th 2009

Environmental NGO "Stichting Natuur en Milieu" commissions Rem Koolhaas

Office for Metropolitan Architecture presents Master plan off shore wind in the North sea

In time off shore wind from the North sea can deliver as much energy as the Persian Gulf region today. The master plan "Zeekracht" [1] of the Office for Metropolitan architecture (OMA), the world renowned architect bureau of Rem Koolhaas, shows that the North sea can become the sustainable battery for Europe. The master plan pinpoints areas for an international ring of wind parks in connection with shipping areas as well as nature areas and recreational regions. The visionary master plan was commissioned by the Netherlands Society for Nature and Environment (Stichting Natuur en Milieu)

"Bridging the divide" is the key element of the master plan. An Energy Super-Ring provides the primary infrastructure for energy supply, sharing, distribution and eventual extended electricity trade, connecting the seven countries around the North sea. An international institute for renewable energy in the middle of the ring brings together expertise and symbolises the international collaboration. Using the shared knowledge and infrastructure, the North sea countries can help Europe to achieve the necessary transition towards sustainable energy. Around 2050 Europe can have achieved a reasonable independence from Russia and the Gulf states.

The geographical central position of the Netherlands amongst the other North sea countries challenges the Dutch to take the lead. The map in the master plan of the Netherlands including the sea area is an icon. When one takes the area of the North sea into account, the Netherlands more or less double in size. Next to the potential of off shore wind, the master plan also explores other potentials of the North sea. By linking the different wind parks in a clever way, vast contiguous new nature area's can be created. Wind parks could provide a shelter to fish and other animals. Since fishing is not allowed in wind parks, artificial reefs could enriches the sea life.

The strength of the master plan "Zeekracht" lies in the combination of current scientific knowledge with a strong vision of the future. It shows which changes are necessary to reach a sustainable future. Small short term instruments like subsidies need to be replaced by long term investments that deliver financial and ecological profits as well as more energy independence. The wind industry is to change from a marginal industry these days into an innovative export orientated industry to be supported by Dutch centres of excellence in the field of wind and water research. The Dutch already are leading in the world in these areas and this could be converted into sustainable jobs.

The Netherlands Society for Nature and Environment is proud of this inspiring Master plan that could cause a breakthrough towards a sustainable development of the North sea.

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[1] OMA is the bureau of world renowned architect Rem Koolhaas. The word "Zeekracht" as used in this press release and the similar named campaign didn't exist (for this purpose) in the Dutch language: it is a combination of zee (sea) and kracht (force, power) to signify our desire to produce before 2020 all the electricity for all Dutch households from off shore wind power in the North sea.

[2] The master plan "Zeekracht" is a component of the campaign "Zeekracht" of Stichting Natuur en Milieu (the Netherlands Society for Nature and Environment). An other component of the campaign is the newly formed cooperation "Zeekracht" that intends to build wind turbines itself on the North sea. Citizens can become participants through www.zeekracht.nl (Dutch only) and in due time will be able to use their self generated North sea electricity. Important partners in "zeekracht" are amongst others: Dutch energy company Eneco, the bank ASN, the VSB-fund and the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

[3] **Stichting Natuur en Milieu**, (www.natuurenmilieu.nl), The Netherlands Society for Nature and Environment, is an independent environmental organization committed to securing a healthy natural environment. We are helping to build a sustainable society in which nature, the environment and the landscape are treated with care and respect.

What we do

Our main strength lies in influencing the policy-making process. We conduct publicity campaigns and stimulate discussion and debate. We also conduct research and publish our findings. We mobilize public opinion and put pressure on key policymakers in the field of nature and environment to make sustainability a cornerstone of policy and legislation, at the European, national and local levels.

Organisation

Stichting Natuur en Milieu consists of about 80 enthusiastic professionals, all working for a sustainable society. We operate in three teams: Spatial Planning and Mobility, Nature and Agriculture, and Climate and Economy. Each team contains staff with legal and communication expertise, and because our work transcends purely national affairs each team also contains experts on EU matters. Two units support the work of the three teams: Communication and Strategy and Internal Affairs.

[4] see www.zeekracht.nl \over zeekracht\pers where you will find several illustrations which can be used free of charge. Two of them are attached.

- a. The seven North Sea countries including the sea
- b. the Energy Super Ring