



Hamburg/Singapore, 27 May 2021

## WFO to develop alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for offshore wind and to launch new Offshore Dispute Resolution Committee

- WFO's new Offshore Dispute Resolution Committee (ODRC) aims to develop alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to resolve project disputes in the global offshore wind industry in a timely and cost-effective manner
- Tobias Voigt (Carneades) and Christian Knütel (Hogan Lovells) named ODRC Co-Chairs
- Inaugural ODRC meeting will take place virtually on 28 May 2021
- WFO's new Secretariat for Dispute Resolution Services will be open to receive applications by experts to assist in offshore wind dispute resolution

The increasing number of legal disputes and court cases within the fast-growing offshore wind industry has created a strong demand for tailor-made alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. The highly complex nature of a large-scale offshore wind project throughout its lifetime from development and construction to operations requires solutions that leverage existing experience, industry knowledge as well as the ability to make quick and balanced decisions. WFO has decided to develop suitable dispute resolution mechanisms and to provide expert-related services exclusively for the international offshore wind industry.

In this context, WFO is launching a new committee – the Offshore Dispute Resolution Committee (ODRC). The launch of WFO's ODRC follows the example of WFO's highly successful Floating Offshore Wind Committee initiated in early 2020. The new ODRC will bring together companies from around the world to focus on one specific topic: developing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for offshore wind. The ODRC is open to all WFO members and will combine leading players from all parts of the global offshore wind value chain with internationally recognised legal experts who have deep knowledge of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

To guarantee an effective management of the new ODRC, WFO has created a new Secretariat for Dispute Resolution Services to manage and support all activities and services initiated by the ODRC. The Secretariat for Dispute Resolution Services is comprised of three roles: Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and Managing Secretary. Initially, these roles will be assumed by Tobias Voigt (Carneades), Christian Knütel (Hogan Lovells and WFO's General Counsel) and Gunnar Herzig (WFO) respectively. Tobias Voigt and Christian Knütel will also serve as ODRC's Co-Chairs.

In a first step, WFO and the new Secretariat for Dispute Resolution Services will start to set up a pool of experts in various offshore-wind-related disciplines with proven track records in offshore wind dispute resolution. Industry experts are encouraged to visit WFO's website for more information about needed qualifications and requirements.

**Tobias Voigt, Partner, Carneades:**

"Tailor-made alternative dispute resolution mechanisms can help to materially reduce dispute-related costs for large-scale offshore wind projects."

**Christian Knütel, Partner, Hogan Lovells:**

"Dispute resolution services that respond to the specific requirements of the offshore wind industry are needed to mitigate the impact of disputes in the sector."

**Gunnar Herzig, Managing Director, World Forum Offshore Wind (WFO):**

"We are fully convinced that our new Offshore Dispute Resolution Committee will be as impactful as our Floating Offshore Wind Committee which quickly evolved into a powerful industry platform fostering knowledge exchange within the global offshore community."

**Tobias Voigt** is an attorney with a focus on infrastructure and offshore wind. He is the founder and Managing Partner at Carneades Legal in Hamburg and also leads Carneades Project Services GmbH, a Commercial Project Management provider for the wind industry. In addition to dispute resolution, he is involved in contract, claim, and negotiation management for several leading companies in the offshore wind industry in Germany and abroad. He is an internationally recognised and respected offshore wind expert and advocate. Tobias also serves as Co-Chair of the Working Commission on International Construction Law of the German Lawyers' Association (DAV).

**Christian Knütel** is WFO's General Counsel and Partner at the international law firm Hogan Lovells, based in Hamburg. Christian has been advising contractors and owners/developers on national and international offshore wind projects for over ten years. A particular focus of his practice, which has constantly grown for years, is project-related claims management, advice on high-value out-of-court settlements, litigation, arbitration and dispute adjudication, mediation, or expert determination proceedings, with a special focus on offshore wind.

**About WFO:**

World Forum Offshore Wind (WFO) is the world's only organisation 100% dedicated to fostering global offshore wind growth. WFO's international members represent the complete offshore wind value chain including utilities, manufacturers, service firms and other non-profit organisations. WFO is registered as a non-profit association (e.V.) in Germany with offices in Hamburg and Singapore. WFO's unique profile facilitates access to governmental and international forums to open new markets and to advocate for global offshore wind growth.

**Contact:**

WORLD FORUM OFFSHORE WIND e.V.

Gunnar Herzig

Managing Director

Neuer Wall 10	49A Temple Street
20354 Hamburg	Singapore 058594
Germany	Singapore

Email: [gunnar.herzig@wfo-global.org](mailto:gunnar.herzig@wfo-global.org)

Tel: +49 40 611 991 25

Web: [www.wfo-global.org](http://www.wfo-global.org)

Twitter: [@WFO\\_global](https://twitter.com/WFO_global)

LinkedIn: WORLD FORUM OFFSHORE WIND e.V.