

WavEC Seminar 2019 speech António Sarmento

Prof. Manuel Heitor, Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal, Prof. Ricardo Serrão Santos, Minister of the Sea of Portugal, Mr. Anders Erdal, Ambassador of Norway to Lisbon, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning and thank you so much for attending WavEC Seminar 2019, this year organized in cooperation with the Royal Embassy of Norway to Lisbon and Innovation Norway. I hope you will have an interesting and fruitful day.

It is already a tradition that our seminar is organized with an embassy to Lisbon. This tradition started in 2012 with the Royal Embassy of Norway, and in the following years was done in cooperation with the embassies of the Netherlands, USA, France, Finland and the UK. So, it is with great pleasure and sense of opportunity that we repeat with Norway this year. This has to do with the significant developments that the two countries are embracing in floating offshore wind and offshore aquaculture, as well as the opportunities of cooperation fostered by the EEA Grants.

So, my first words of recognition are to the Royal Embassy of Norway and Ambassador, Mr. Anders Erdal. Thank you so much for all the support and trust.

We are also very grateful to the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Prof. Manuel Heitor and the Minister of the Sea, Prof. Ricardo Serrão Santos for accepting our invitation to participate in the opening session of our Seminar. When discussing innovation in science, technology, regulation and markets in relation to the ocean these two ministries are essential. We see their presence here as a recognition of the relevance of our field of work but also of our contribution to the development of innovative ocean technology and economic activities in Portugal and beyond.

Along the day we will be hearing about innovative projects in floating offshore wind, wave energy, offshore aquaculture, offshore production of

hydrogen and floating solar PV. These are frontier areas and WavEC is proud to be engaged in all of them with relevant national and international players, in some cases since many years.

Indeed WavEC has been a key player in Portugal in wave energy contributing to technology innovation, environmental monitoring and impact assessment methodologies, new legislation and regulations for the sector, attraction of R&D and Demonstration projects to Portugal and even owning and operating for about 15 years one of the first wave energy demonstration plants in the world. Over the last ten years we have been working with AW Energy and CorPower, two world leading wave energy companies, in developing their technologies and testing their full-scale prototypes in Portugal through technological and non-technological support.

In offshore wind WavEC is proud to have produced a report in 2007 for EDP suggesting the company to invest in floating offshore wind, namely in the WindFloat technology. 12 years later this led to the deployment of a world first 3 units farm of this technology in the North of Portugal. WavEC has been providing technical and non-technical support to EDP, PPI and REN in the development of the technology, test of the pilot plant (2011-16) and farm development.

More recently we start working with EDP Produção in the development of floating solar PV in water dams.

Also, very recently WavEC has been instrumental in providing non-technological support to Nørde in developing the first offshore aquaculture pilot project in Portugal.

So, in conclusion we believe that we have been fulfilling well our mission: to promote new frontier ocean economic activities through innovation, technology transfer and public awareness.

Thank you very much.

António Sarmiento