

Book Reviews

Climate Change Protection and Monitoring in Strategic Environmental Assessment: Offshore Wind Energy Use in the Exclusive Economic Zone

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Klimaschutz und Monitoring in der Strategischen Umweltprüfung. Offshore-Windenergienutzung in der Ausschliesslichen Wirtschaftszone. XXI + 319 p. Berlin: Lexxion 2008, €58. German language.

This book on *climate change protection measures and monitoring and strategie environmental assessment: Offshore wind parks in the exclusive economic zone* is the result of a research project which the authors realised between 2004 and 2008 for the German Federal Ministry for the Environment. It follows an earlier publication by the authors on "strategie environmental assessment and offshore wind energy use" (Hamburg 2006). This second publication concentrates on questions of monitoring and on the integration of climate change considerations into strategic environmental assessment.

Monitoring issues are discussed on pp. 1 to 158. The authors examine the legal nature, objectives and instruments of monitoring, the integration of monitoring issues into the general task of town and county planning, and the monitoring of fauna and flora species. They pass in review the numerous technical methods and instruments which may be used for such monitoring and enable thus any planning body to select the appropriate instrument for any offshore activity in European waters. This systematic description and evaluating of existing methods and instruments makes the book particularly interesting and important for any authority which has to authorise or monitor offshore activities. At the same time, researchers, environmental organisations or private companies, not only in many, but in any European country, may use the findings as a state-of-the-art handbook for offshore monitoring activities, all the more, as the bibliography - more than 30 pages long - extensively quotes English publications.

The second part (p. 159-318) deals with the Impact of climate change issues in the planning procedures. As climate change issues are a relatively new phenomenon in European planning procedures, with great differences among the different States, the book is again rather innovative. It discusses - taken at random - issues such as the examination of alternatives, possibilities of energy production by offshore wind parks, the impact of climate change on the marine environment and on fauna and flora, but also the early integration of potential investors into the planning process. The authors give a number of recommendations for action to political authorities in Germany. Once more, with some adaptations, these recommendations might also be usefully noted in other European countries, as the problems which are raised by climate change are not limited to one single State.

The authors are lawyers, biologists and environmental planners. Their cooperation required them to produce an integrated text which is easily readable, very largely exempt from sophisticated legal or administrative language and which clearly conveys the authors' message. The book can thus be recommended to any person who is interested in the interdependency of economic offshore activities and the protection of the environment.