

**Question for written answer E-008058/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Mireille D'Ornano (ENF)**

Subject: Wind farms and environmental policy

It takes a great deal of energy to manufacture wind turbines and the materials used are not sustainable. Wind farms are not a reliable source of energy, as the turbine blades turn only when it is windy and stop for safety reasons if the wind is too strong.

These structures are a permanent blot on the landscape, since their concrete foundations cannot be removed even if the turbine is dismantled. What is more, noise pollution is generated by the wind whistling against the blades and by the grinding of the rotor mechanism. Wind turbines also interfere with electromagnetic waves (needed for the operation of radios, televisions and telephones) and can kill migratory birds that fail to spot the rotating blades.

Offshore wind farms – which must be built fairly close to the shore as energy is lost during transfer – pose a threat to an already vulnerable coastal fishing industry. They drive fish out of their habitats and disturb mammals such as seals and dolphins, and the corrosion caused by seawater shortens their useful life.

How can the Commission take the view 'that it is possible to reconcile the development of onshore and offshore wind farms with environmental policy objectives', as it stated in its answer to Question E-008841/2014?