

**Question for written answer E-006118/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Ecological disaster in the protected NATURA area of South Karystia due to the setting up of wind farms

South Karystia is an area on South Euboea marked with remarkable biodiversity, which is home to numerous rare birds of prey that are threatened with extinction. The rocky formations and lush green gorges of Mount Ochi create a unique landscape.

Problems started in the area when the Greek authorities designated it both a protected area and a wind farm priority area!

There are plans to set up 42 wind farms with a capacity of 700 MW in the area. This number of wind farms exceeds the permissible limit for any Greek area of that size, let alone given that this is a NATURA area.

The construction of roads to transport the wind turbines to the peaks of Mount Ochi will disturb the hydrological balance and destroy water sources. The electromagnetic radiation emitted by towers near inhabited areas will pose a huge threat to the health of local residents.

The operation of the above wind farms would constitute an outright breach of European Union legislation on the protection of human health and the environment given, in particular, that South Karystia is a protected NATURA area. In view of this:

- What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the applicable EU law is applied and to prevent the above ecological disaster, which will have an irreversible impact on human health and on the environment?