

**Question for written answer E-002031/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Frédérique Ries (ALDE)

Subject: Coexistence of wind farm projects and Natura 2000 sites

The Natura 2000 network covers 18% of the EU's territory, which makes it the largest integrated network of protected areas in the world. This is undeniably a real success story in the partnership between humans and nature. Its aim is not to exclude economic activity but to ensure that such activity is compatible with safeguarding valuable species and habitats.

Many local residents' and nature protection associations are now alerting us to an increase in the development of new wind farms in the vicinity of Natura 2000 sites, including in the province of Hainaut in Belgium. It can be a difficult coexistence and can lead to fatal collisions for bird species such as the red kite, the harrier, the skylark and the northern lapwing.

1. What is the situation regarding application by the Member States and European regions of the Commission recommendation aimed at creating sensitivity maps showing areas where wind farm projects seem to pose either a low, medium or high risk to birdlife?
2. Does the Commission plan to create a standard to fix a minimum distance between Natura 2000 sites and wind farms such as exists in practice for human habitats?