

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2711/09
by Jean-Claude Martinez (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Wind energy as an economic sector

On the pretext of combating climate change and researching so-called renewable sources of energy, the Member States have chosen to explore the potential of biofuels and 'wind energy'.

While biofuels were partly responsible for the hunger riots in spring 2008, wind energy produces less than 0.1% of France's energy requirements and barely 1% of total requirements in Denmark, the leader in this area. The poorly thought-out 'electric windmill' concept is not only a burden on public finances, as a result of the award of tax relief and other incentives, it is also, and above all, disrupting many people's lives.

Opposition to the 'white tide' of turbines is, however, on the increase. On the Levezou plateau in the French department of Aveyron, for example, farmers and rural dwellers are fighting this intrusion into their daily lives.

For these reasons, I am asking the Commission to carry out an interdisciplinary study to provide clear answers to the following questions:

1. What companies are manufacturing and installing the turbines, what is their turnover, how much profit are they making and what is the cost to the public finances in tax expenditure and budget appropriations?
2. What links and networks have been established between the 'eco-industrial complex' and political and administrative decision-makers, parties and elected office-holders?