

**Question for written answer E-011013/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Liam Aylward (ALDE)

Subject: Wind farm developments in Ireland

Under the UN's Aarhus Convention, which establishes rights of individuals and their associations with regard to the environment, the public can request to be informed of the health risks involved and have a say in developments such as wind farms. A special United Nations Committee has cited this convention in its recent ruling on a UK case with regard to the public right to 'necessary information' in terms of wind farm developments.

1. In this regard, could the Commission clarify what fundamental rights the Irish public have in relation to the proposed wind farm development in the Irish midlands?
2. What is the position of the Commission in relation to the provision of 'necessary information' both of the benefits and adverse effects of wind farm developments to the public?
3. Could the Commission clarify what constitutes a safe distance, as dictated by legislation, in terms of health and the environment, for the construction of wind turbines in relation to distance from residential properties?
4. Does the Commission have legislation or guidelines in place with relation to noise, separation distance and shadow flicker?
5. It has been reported that the wind farm development in the Irish midlands will include turbines measuring up to 185 m in height. Could the Commission clarify its position with regard to the maximum permitted height of turbines?
6. With regard to areas covered by the Habitats Directive and Natura 2000 and areas of special natural beauty, what is the position of the Commission in relation to the construction of wind farms in these areas?
7. With regard to the environmental impact of wind farms, could the Commission give details as to the requirements developers are obliged to follow?