

**Question for written answer E-001861/2020**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Cindy Franssen (PPE)**

Subject: Possible impact of wind turbines on health

Directive 2002/49/EC on the management of environmental noise <sup>1</sup> does not contain any provisions concerning noise caused by wind turbines. Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects <sup>2</sup> stipulates that such assessments must take account of public health.

In 2018, the World Health Organisation (WHO) expressed the view that noise caused by wind turbines could harm public health in certain cases. The organisation therefore introduced a noise limit of 45 dB. The WHO report also indicates that further research into the health impact of low-frequency noise from wind turbines is needed, for which reason this specific type of noise was not considered in the evaluation conducted.

1. Directive 2011/92/EU lays down that, in deciding where to site such installations as wind turbines, Member States must take account of the impact on public health. Does the Commission check whether the various national rules comply with this requirement?
2. Is the Commission aware of scientific studies which demonstrate the adverse impact of low-frequency noise on public health? If so, what is the Commission's assessment of those studies?
3. In view of the WHO's observations, does the Commission support scientific research into the health impact of wind turbines in general and low-frequency noise in particular?

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise, OJ L 189, 18.7.2002, p. 12.

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects, OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1.