

**Question for written answer E-006628/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Erection of offshore wind farms: a significant impact across all European ecosystems and lasting effects at their location

On 24 November 2020, the television channel Arte broadcast a documentary entitled 'La face cachée des énergies vertes' [the hidden face of green energy]. This documentary brought many shocking facts to light¹.

There is a very real environmental impact during the construction stage of offshore wind farms, which has been measured². The whole ecosystem is disturbed³ and there are many studies demonstrating how the area's wildlife, and particularly its bird life, flee the location⁴.

However, human activities are also affected. Erecting wind turbines alters fishing patterns⁵. The lack of any precise answers as yet to basic questions – such as will the area will be open to shipping, and will both day and night fishing be allowed – is causing the fishing profession huge anxiety.

Lastly, rare earths are consumed in construction of this renewable energy infrastructure, mainly through the permanent magnets needed for offshore wind farms. These minerals are mined abroad⁶ and have an extremely high ecological impact.

As one of the aims of the European Green Deal is to restore biodiversity and cut pollution, what will the Commission do concerning offshore wind farm projects, given that they have a quantifiable effect on biodiversity and ecosystems?

¹ <https://planete.lesechos.fr/contributions/la-face-cachee-de-la-revolution-verte-5624/>

² https://sagascience.cnrs.fr/doseau/decouv/degredation/10_pollution.htm

³ P.T. Madsen, M. Wahlberg, J. Tougaard, K. Lucke and Peter Lloyd Tyack, *Wind turbine underwater noise and marine mammals: implications of current knowledge and data needs*, Inter-Research Science Publisher, 2006.

⁴ Céline Heitz and Lise Jung, *Impact de l'activité éolienne sur les populations de chiroptères*, Écosphère, August 2016, completed in May 2017.

⁵ Halima Najibi, 'Éolien offshore Dieppe-Le Tréport: la plateforme de forage a fait fuir le poisson' [Dieppe-Le Tréport offshore wind farm: the drilling platform has driven fish away], France 3, 6 November 2018.

⁶ Richard Jones, 'Inside China's Secret toxic Unobtainium Mine', *Daily Mail*, 10 January 2010.