

**Question for written answer E-001344/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Sarah Wiener (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Light pollution

Many key biodiversity areas in Europe are threatened by the use of artificial light at night. While Directive-2009/125/EC¹ lays down targets for the energy efficiency of light installations, it does not contain binding obligations to limit the adverse effects of light pollution. It furthermore supports the shift to light-emitting diodes (LEDs) in street and other outdoor lighting. Recent studies have shown, however, that LEDs are in fact more attractive to insects than high-pressure sodium lamps and that they have a detrimental effect on periphytons in aquatic ecosystems due to their typically high blue-light content. This means that they may actually have a higher impact on nocturnal invertebrates and aquatic organisms.

1. Does the Commission intend to address the issue of light pollution in the zero pollution action plan and/or the EU nature restoration targets that are part of its biodiversity strategy?
2. Would it consider including binding obligations in other relevant legislative initiatives or future revisions of existing relevant EU legislation (e.g. the ecodesign directive) to limit the adverse effects of artificial light at night?
3. Would it consider slowing the shift to LEDs until further developments in LED technology can minimise any potential negative impact that they may have on the environment?

¹ Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex%3A32009L0125>).