

**Question for written answer E-002211/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Tom Vandenkendelaere (PPE)

Subject: Effect of offshore wind energy on fisheries and fishery resources

In October 2020, the European Parliament's Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies published a study on the effect of offshore wind farms and other maritime renewable energy sources on fisheries¹. The researchers concluded that exploitation of offshore renewable resources varies greatly in size and capacity between different European waters, with the largest expansion of wind farms to take place in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea by 2025. Furthermore, the results suggest a sharp increase in the potential for conflict over sea space in the North Sea, the Baltic and the Mediterranean over the next five years, with a possible impact on fishery resources and adverse socio-economic effects on the fisheries sector.

1. Does the Commission have a clear picture of the effects of offshore wind energy on fisheries and fishery resources in the North Sea? Can it provide statistics on this?
2. How does it intend to minimise the increasing potential for conflict between fishery and offshore wind energy interests in the North Sea?
3. What measures is it taking or intending to take in order to limit the socio-economic effects on European fisheries and dependent sectors and to compensate or support them if required?

¹ [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_STU\(2020\)652212](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_STU(2020)652212)