

**Question for written answer E-004201/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Elena Lizzi (ID)

Subject: New waste flows from renewable energies

In its briefing of 24 August 2021, the European Environment Agency reports that the development of renewable energies will lead to a dramatic rise between 2020 and 2030 in waste from these sources.

Specifically, it predicts a 3 000 % rise in waste for photovoltaic energy, 200 % for the wind power sector and 600 % for energy storage.

The adverse side of swift technological development is how fast plants and equipment for the production of renewable energy becomes obsolete creating a huge amount of waste that often contains composite materials that are difficult to recycle and hazardous to health and the environment.

Furthermore, the infrastructure for renewable energies contains a great deal of steel, glass and carbon (in the wind turbines) and bismuth and manganese composites to optimise the efficiency of the photovoltaic cells.

In view of these facts:

1. How will the Commission fund research into the development of non-polluting recyclable composites?
2. How will it recover these materials and promote their reintroduction into the production cycle?
3. How does it plan to check for the presence of substances that are hazardous for humans and the environment and then dispose of them?