

**Question for written answer E-004049/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Removal of environmental impact assessments in the Regulation to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy

On 13 December 2022, the Energy Council adopted the Regulation to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy, which removes the requirement for an environmental impact assessment from renewable projects so as to speed up their installation, and their connection to the grid and storage assets. The New Water Culture Foundation (FNCA) and the Citizens' Platform for a Just Energy Transition (PCTEJ) have noted the lack of a legal basis for the regulation. The proposal was framed using Article 122 of the TFEU, thereby excluding Parliament from acting as a co-legislator. It violates the principle of non-regression in environmental matters, which forms part of the goal to achieve sustainability based on a high level of protection. The aforementioned organisations warn of the danger which environmental exceptions pose to biodiversity, ecosystems and bodies of water. Our questions for the Commission are as follows:

1. Is the Commission of the opinion that the Regulation infringes the limits set out in the directives to protect biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as the precautionary principle and that of case-by-case oversight?
2. How does it intend to ensure the participation of the public and of regional and local bodies in the planning and deployment of renewables?
3. How will it avoid speculation in renewable projects and prevent their oligopolisation by the big electricity companies?

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