

**Question for written answer E-001599/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Installation of floating solar panels in Europe

The floating solar panel industry is booming in the US and East Asia. According to its proponents, the technology has the double advantage of being able to cool down the panels in real time while also not taking up space on agricultural land or industrial sites.

Without a doubt, this technology should become widely accessible in Member States with the privilege of access to the coast. But this innovation does not address the main drawback of solar panels: producing them requires specific materials such as silicon, cadmium and lead, and their lifetime is very limited, which brings up the matter of recycling.

To date, information on the lifetime of floating panels remains vague.

In light of the above:

1. What is the Commission's position on the use of floating solar panels? Is the impact on the local economy (fishing and tourism) taken into consideration?
2. Can floating solar panels have a longer lifetime, thus making them less exposed to the difficulties of recycling?

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