

**Question for written answer E-002125/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**François-Xavier Bellamy (PPE)**

Subject: Acoustic impact of wind turbines

On 20 March 2023, the Commission issued a report<sup>1</sup> on the implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive<sup>2</sup>. This report notes the contradiction between the directive's broad scope ('environmental noise to which humans are exposed in particular in built-up areas, in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, in quiet areas in open country, near schools, hospitals and other noise-sensitive buildings and areas'), per Article 2(1) thereof, and the Commission's assessment that wind turbine acoustic emissions are 'not explicitly mentioned in the definition of environmental noise in Article 3(a) and are therefore not covered' by the directive. Such a contradiction does not satisfy the requirement for a high level of protection of the environment, as provided for in Article 191(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

1. Can the Commission explain how it intends to address and resolve this contradiction, for instance by evaluating how acoustic emissions from wind turbines may best be measured and managed on the basis of EU rules, to be introduced in the Environmental Noise Directive or the Industrial Emissions Directive<sup>3</sup> or otherwise?
2. Can it also explain how it intends to clarify the definition of 'quiet areas' under the Environmental Noise Directive?

**Supporter<sup>4</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Commission report of 20 March 2023 on the implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive in accordance with Article 11 of Directive 2002/49/EC (COM(2023)0139).

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise (OJ L 189, 18.7.2002, p. 12).

<sup>3</sup> Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, p. 17).

<sup>4</sup> This question is supported by a Member other than the author: Ana Miranda (Verts/ALE)