

**Question for written answer E-002824/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Aurélia Beigneux (ID)

Subject: Offshore wind turbines: a threat to marine fauna

Between December 2022 and January 2023, 14 whales were found dead on the east coast of the United States. Offshore wind turbines were said to be responsible and

this accusation is backed up by French analyses: in 2021, the French National Council for Nature Protection published a report that warned about collision risks for certain marine species attracted by wind turbine support structures.

According to the Council, the risks to cetaceans and the 'disturbances and changes in the habitats of marine mammals' are unprecedented in France, and it highlights this in the report.

The EU supports offshore wind turbines with a view to achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal, notably through the EU Strategy on offshore renewable energy (COM(2020) 741) of 19 November 2020.

In view of the above:

1. Did the Commission carry out an impact assessment of offshore wind turbines on marine fauna before publishing the strategy in November 2020?
2. Has it been alerted to these new risks since the installation of several offshore wind farms along the coasts of the Member States?

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