

**Question for written answer E-003082/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Abandoned wind turbines and their serious impact on the lives of local residents and on the environment

There have been complaints across whole areas of Greece such as southern Karystos, Arcadia, Syros and elsewhere, about abandoned and inactive wind turbines. Local residents are concerned about the immeasurable impact they see the turbines having on the environment. According to data from the Greek Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE), the licences for 25% of existing turbines will expire by 2030, yet there is no specific plan in place for their removal and for the restoration of the surrounding nature.

In view of this:

1. What does the Commission have to say about the fact that although the EU's 'green strategy' and the Recovery and Resilience Facility is pumping tens of billions of euros in subsidies into renewable energy companies, protection of the environment and public health is not being guaranteed and these companies are being given free rein to simply abandon waste parts from wind turbines without being subject to any obligation or legal requirement to pay all expenses and compensation relating to the removal of the turbines and the restoration of the area where they were installed?
2. What does it have to say about the new EU directive, which is harmful both to people and the environment, creating special economic zones to fast-track the deployment of renewable energy installations, even in Natura 2000 protected areas, without any preconditions, considering the deployment of these installations as a matter of 'overriding public interest' aimed at curtailing popular protests, without the slightest provision requiring business groups/contractors to assume responsibility for and the overall cost of removing the abandoned wind turbines?

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