Question for written answer E-000264/2024
to the Commission
Rule 138
Kosma Złotowski (ECR)

Subject: Adverse environmental impact of wind turbines

The Commission's European Wind Energy Action Plan[1] sets a target of at least 42.5% renewable energy by 2030, which requires an increase in installed wind energy capacity from 204 GW in 2022 to more than 500 GW in 2030.

The use of technology to detect the presence of birds, scare them away and shut down the turbine in the event of a collision minimises the risk of wind turbines killing or maiming birds, but does not prevent biodiversity loss through habitat loss and the displacement of wildlife. According to a study by the Finnish Institute of Natural Resources[2], up to 63% of bird species, 72% of bats and 67% of mammals move up to 5 km away from areas where wind turbines are installed.

1. Is the Commission not concerned that the development of wind turbines on such a large scale may lead to irreversible environmental degradation in the vicinity of wind farms by interfering with local ecosystems?

2. In December 2023, the Nimes Court of Appeal ordered the demolition of seven wind turbines in the Herault department in the south of France precisely because of their adverse environmental impact[3]. Is the Commission not concerned that there will be more such rulings in the future?

3. The University of Cambridge estimates that wind turbines will generate 43 million tonnes of waste by 2050[4]. Does the Commission support, financially or otherwise, research into technology to enable their recycling?

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1 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52023DC0669

2 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/375962314_How_far_are_birds_bats_and_terrestrial_mammals_displaced_from_onshore_wind_power_development_-A_systematic_review

3 https://brusselssignal.eu/2023/12/french-wind-farm-must-be-demolished-after-golden-eagles-killed-court-rules/

4 https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/items/11ddf6dd-5682-467b-95a5-f3c25338c6a8