

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1381/10
by Estelle Grelier (S&D)
to the Commission

Subject: Offshore wind turbines on Natura 2000 sites

On 11 November 2009 I asked the Commission a question, which it has yet to answer, on the direction of energy policy in the Member States.

The Member States have promised that, by 2020, 20% of energy used in Europe will be produced from renewable sources. Increasing the number of Europe's offshore wind turbines is essential in meeting this objective.

France is lagging far behind in the respect. The French Government has stated its aim of raising its offshore wind power generating capacity to 6 000 megawatts. French regulation is, however, vague in a number of respects and this uncertainty has hindered the completion of offshore wind-farm projects.

This raises a number of questions, notably as to whether European regulation allows for offshore wind turbines or marine current turbines to be set up on offshore Natura 2000 sites and, if so, under what conditions.

Other countries, Germany for instance, have shown that offshore wind farms can create jobs. We cannot allow this opportunity to pass us by.

In the light of the above, does European regulation allow for projects aiming to develop renewable methods of energy generation on Natura 2000 sites on land or at sea and, if so, under what conditions?