



24.6.2021

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 0554/2019 by Krzysztof Grabowski (Polish) on wind farms and their impact on climate change

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner requests a study on the impact of wind farms on climate change in Europe. In his opinion, hundreds of thousands of wind turbines have been built all along the EU's coastlines to produce electricity, transforming the kinetic energy of the wind into electricity, which leads to electricity generation at the expense of stopping the flow of gases along the planet's surface. According to the petitioner, this results in an imbalance in the flow of thermal energy between large areas of land and sea, exacerbating weather phenomena such as violent storms, tornadoes, storms and heavy rains. Moreover, in his opinion, windfarms have an indirect influence on food production, as the very late frosts in recent years, which have ravaged fruit production, are also a result of disturbances in gas exchange on the Earth's surface.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 5 November 2019. Information requested from Commission under Rule 227(6).

3. Commission reply, received on 24 June 2021

The EU has set itself ambitious renewable energy targets of at least 20% by 2020 and 32% by 2030. Member States have to put in place policies and measures to ensure the achievement of these targets.

On a general level, the Commission considers that it is possible to reconcile the development of wind farms with environmental policy objectives. For wind farm projects, Member States have to determine whether the projects are to be made subject to an assessment because of likely

significant effects on the environment taking into account the relevant selection criteria set out in the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive¹. This also includes any climatic factors that could be significantly affected by the proposed project.

Conclusion

On the basis of the information provided by the petitioner, the Commission cannot identify a breach of EU law. Furthermore the petitioner does not provide any evidence to support the claims.

¹ Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment Text with EEA relevance, *OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1–21*; (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment Text with EEA relevance, *OJ L 124, 25.4.2014, p. 1–18*).