

**Question for written answer E-003814/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Mathilde Androuët (PfE)

Subject: Wind turbines: sacrificing biodiversity in the race for renewable energy?

The EU claims that protecting biodiversity is a priority. When it comes to developing wind power, however, that requirement seems a lot less important. In April 2025, the Commission even described wind farms as ‘wildlife friendly’ and emphasised their low contribution to the global percentage of human-related bird deaths¹.

In France, a recent study showed that almost three quarters of wind farms apparently operate without being subject to a derogation from the ban on the destruction or disturbance of protected species. This is despite the fact that bird and bat deaths have been documented and several court decisions have forced the authorities to review certain permits².

At the same time, the EU has chosen to significantly speed up permitting procedures for renewable energy projects and to ensure that they are treated very favourably from a regulatory point of view³.

1. Can the Commission explain why the environmental restrictions imposed on many economic activities seem to be applied less strictly when it comes to wind-energy projects?
2. Does it have precise figures on the number of wind farms that have been granted a derogation as regards protected species in each Member State?
3. Does the Commission intend to ensure that the EU’s wind-energy development objectives do not end up taking precedence over the protection of biodiversity?

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¹ European Commission, DG Energy, ‘5 things you should know about wind energy’, 22 April 2025.

² Gabriel Ullmann, ‘Éoliennes et biodiversité: destructions et pertes d’habitat (2/5)’, Actu-Environnement, 1 September 2026.

³ Directive (EU) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 amending, inter alia, Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources.