

**Question for oral answer O-000034/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 142

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on behalf of the P/E Group

Subject: Noise pollution from wind turbines

Recent scientific studies, notably one conducted by Uppsala University in Sweden in 2025¹, demonstrate that the infrasound produced by new-generation wind turbines propagates over much greater distances than current models predict.

The Commission itself acknowledges that ‘wind turbines generate infrasound or lower frequencies of sound than traffic-related sources which may not be fully addressed by standard noise metrics’².

Before wind farm projects are authorised, they undergo an environmental impact assessment³ that includes a description of noise emissions. However, this impact assessment is incomplete, as it fails to account for infrasound.

The Commission has received recommendations from the European Court of Auditors⁴ inviting it to assess the feasibility of introducing noise reduction targets and noise level limits into the Environmental Noise Directive⁵.

The lack of comprehensive EU regulations on noise emission thresholds for wind turbines is thus a source of nuisance and even health risks for thousands of EU citizens.

1. What measures does the Commission intend to take to address this regulatory gap?
2. Does the Commission intend to carry out an independent scientific assessment and to redefine the minimum safety distances between turbines and homes?
3. Does the Commission intend to revise the Environmental Noise Directive in order to explicitly include noise emissions from wind turbines and to incorporate low-frequency sounds (infrasound) into the noise indicators?
4. Does the Commission intend to amend the directive on noise caused by the industrial activities listed in Annex I to the Industrial Emissions Directive⁶?

¹ Efficient finite difference modelling of infrasound propagation in realistic 3D domains: Validation with wind turbine measurements, Applied Acoustics, Volume 243, 2026, 111156, ISSN 0003-682X, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0003682X25006280?via%3Dihub>.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000019-ASW_EN.html.

³ In accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. 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 (OJ L 124, 25.4.2014).

⁴ <https://www.eca.europa.eu/fr/publications/SR-2025-02>.

⁵ Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise (OJ L 189, 18.7.2002, p. 12).

⁶ Directive (EU) 2024/1785 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024 amending Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) and Council Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste (OJ L, 2024/1785, 15.7.2024).

5. Does the Commission envisage including electricity generation from wind turbines in Annex I of the Industrial Emissions Directive, in order to address the issue of noise emissions from these installations?

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