

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000065/25
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(9 January 2025)**

Subject: Reciprocal fees for offshore wind farms

Given the EU's strategy to promote renewable sources of energy and develop offshore wind farms, which are pivotal to achieving the targets of the European Green Deal and energy transition, considerable challenges arise when it comes to ensuring that local communities benefit.

In a number of Member States such as Greece, the concept of reciprocal fees has emerged as a key tool for supporting local communities that are directly affected by the installation and operation of alternative sources of energy. However, the development of offshore wind farms may bring challenges of a different kind, because local communities are affected in a less direct way.

In view of the above:

1. What is the Commission's view on the introduction of reciprocal fees for offshore wind farms, to ensure the sustainable development and social acceptance of these projects?
2. Does the Commission support the adoption of a uniform framework for reciprocal fees for offshore wind farms at EU level, in order to ensure that coastal communities enjoy an equitable share in the economic and environmental benefits?
3. How does it intend to provide financial support to Member States such as Greece which are in the initial stages of developing offshore wind farms, so that they can create suitable mechanisms for reciprocal fees?

Submitted: 9.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(7 March 2025)**

The EU legislative framework on energy is designed to let consumers and communities benefit from the clean energy transition and to directly participate in the market, including by producing and sharing their own renewable energy.

Article 15d (2) of the revised Renewable Energy Directive ⁽¹⁾, with transposition deadline on 21 May 2025, requires Member States to promote public acceptance of renewable energy projects by means of direct and indirect participation of local communities in those projects. This also applies to offshore projects.

There is no 'one size fits all' solution in this area. Therefore, the Commission will continue promoting the exchange of best practices among the Member States, including via the regional high-level groups ⁽²⁾.

Furthermore, Member States may apply for technical assistance under the Technical Support Instrument to receive support in designing suitable mechanisms for the participation of local communities in renewable energy projects, including offshore wind farms.

The President of the Commission tasked the Commissioner for Energy and Housing to develop a Citizens Energy Package to increase citizens' participation in the energy transition.

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652 (OJ L, 2023/24, 31.10.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/2413/oj>).

⁽²⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/infrastructure/high-level-groups_en