

EN
E-002373/2025
Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.7.2025)

1. On 20 July 2022, the Commission issued a reasoned opinion on the planned wind farm off the coast of Dunkirk, addressed to France and Belgium under Article 259 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, pursuant to Belgium's complaint¹. The reasoned opinion largely rejected Belgium's claims.

2. The Commission takes the view that any complaint about the legal compliance of a permitting procedure for an individual windfarm project with the provisions in the Birds² and Habitats³ Directives should be solved first in national courts. Therefore, the Commission does not intend to take any specific steps in relation to this case in the short term. Public information show that Belgian stakeholders have been and are expressing their views on this project towards the French government, including through the French courts⁴.

3. In its role as guardian of the Treaties, the Commission monitors the application of EU law and may decide to take appropriate action, in line with its enforcement priorities⁵.

¹ [https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR\(2022\)6000&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate](https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR(2022)6000&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate).

² Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7–25.

³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7–50.

⁴ <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnews/fr/2025/02/19/la-flandre-reprend-son-combat-contre-un-parc-eolien-au-large-de/>.

⁵ Communication from the Commission - EU law: Better results through better application, OJ C 18, 19.1.2017, p. 10–20, and Communication from the Commission - Enforcing EU law for a Europe that delivers, 13.10.2022, COM(2022) 518 final.