

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001439/26
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(9 April 2026)**

Subject: Full dismantling and recycling of offshore wind farms in Greece

Greece has already established a specific framework for offshore wind farms, while the revised national energy and climate plan envisages 1.9 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030 and the draft national offshore wind farm development plan envisages 25 marine areas with a total area of 2.712 km² and an estimated minimum capacity of 12.4 GW. However, bearing in mind that these installations have a finite life cycle, it remains unclear whether there are binding guarantees in place to uniformly ensure that the full dismantling, recycling or recovery of their materials and related costs will be the responsibility of the operators themselves. EU law already lays down obligations for the prevention and management of waste and the ‘polluter pays’ principle, for achieving good environmental status of marine waters, as well as for the environmental assessment of plans and projects.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it consider that the current EU framework is sufficient to enable Member States such as Greece to require the full dismantling of offshore wind farms, without the partial abandonment of foundations, moorings, or other infrastructure on the seabed?
2. Does it intend to propose binding EU rules on the recycling or recovery of blades and other composite materials, as well as mandatory financial guarantees so that end-of-life costs are not passed on to taxpayers?

Submitted: 9.4.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(6 July 2026)**

The EU *acquis* empowers Member States to shape decommissioning requirements for offshore infrastructure. The Net Zero Industry Act ⁽¹⁾ allows setting higher thresholds for environmental sustainability and innovation criteria that can encompass site decommissioning obligations. The Renewable Energy Directive ⁽²⁾ includes procedures for repowering existing installations, which facilitate the continued use of established sites and reduce pressure to designate new ones.

The Waste Framework Directive ⁽³⁾ (WFD) requires waste to be managed without endangering human health and harming the environment. In particular, Article 13 requires Member States to take necessary measures to manage waste without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals.

The Commission is evaluating possible aspects related to circularity which may be relevant to wind turbines in the impact assessment for the Circular Economy Act ⁽⁴⁾ planned for adoption later in 2026.

Moreover, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) ⁽⁵⁾ requires Member States to ensure that human activities, including decommissioning, do not adversely affect the good environmental status of marine waters. Partial removal of offshore wind turbine foundations must be assessed against the directive’s requirements, *inter alia* relating to biodiversity, seafloor integrity, marine litter, energy and noise, to avoid any permanent harm to ecosystems.

During assessment, planning or licensing procedures for renewable energy installations, Member States should take account of all EU environmental law ⁽⁶⁾.

Without prejudice to the Commission’s role as guardian of the Treaties, Member States are primarily responsible to ensure that their obligations under EU law, including the WFD and the MSFD, are met.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1735 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe’s net-zero technology manufacturing ecosystem and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724.

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives, OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 3-30, as amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May, OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 109-140 and Directive (EU) 2025/1892 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 September 2025, OJ L, 2025/1892, 26.9.2025.

⁽⁴⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/circular-economy_en.

⁽⁵⁾ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy, OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, pp. 19-40.

⁽⁶⁾ Directive 2018/2001/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, OJ L 328 pp. 82 — 209. See preamble paragraph (45) and Article 16.