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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.8.2026)

The Commission is fully aware of the environmental challenges posed by microplastics, both those intentionally added to products and those unintentionally released into the environment. As highlighted in the Commission's brochure EU Action against Microplastic¹, the main sources of unintentional microplastic releases include paints and coatings, tyre wear, plastic pellets, synthetic textiles, geotextiles and, to a lesser extent, detergent capsules.

The Commission has already taken action to address several of these sources. In particular, the Regulation on Plastic Pellets² was adopted to reduce microplastic pollution arising from pellet handling and transport. The remaining sources of unintentional microplastic releases are being assessed and will continue to be addressed through the measures and initiatives outlined in the Commission's publication, including actions relating to tyres, synthetic textiles, paints, geotextiles and other relevant sources. The Commission has also adopted restrictions on intentionally added microplastics under the Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals³.

Research indicates that plastic emissions from wind turbines are much lower than from other sources⁴. Assessment of the environmental impacts of offshore wind was also addressed in a recent call under Horizon Europe⁵.

¹ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/048dd075-6e47-11ee-9220-01aa75ed71a1>.

² Regulation (EU) 2025/2365 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 November 2025 on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution, OJ L, 2025/2365, 26.11.2025.

³ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC, OJ L 396, 30.12.2006.

⁴ For instance, Mishnaevsky, L., Jr.; Tempelis, A.; Belahurau, Y.; Johansen, N.F.-J. Microplastics Emission from Eroding Wind Turbine Blades: Preliminary Estimations of Volume. *Energies* 2024, 17, 6260. <https://doi.org/10.3390/en17246260>; Caboni, M., Schwarz, A. E., Slot, H., and van der Mijle Meijer, H.: Estimating microplastic emissions from offshore wind turbine blades in the Dutch North Sea, *Wind Energ. Sci.*, 10, 1123–1136, <https://doi.org/10.5194/wes-10-1123-2025>.

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-08>.