

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002468/26
to the Commission
Kostas Papadakis (NI)
(16 June 2026)**

Subject: Risk to residents and the environment from the wind farm in a Natura area on Mount Othrys

A wind farm with 21 wind turbines 249 meters high is to be built around the Gerakovouni peak of Mount Othrys, which is otherwise part of the Natura 2000 network.

Due to the promotion of RES, the people continue to pay extremely expensive bills. The claim that RES will contribute to reducing prices has not been confirmed anywhere, given that in Greece almost half of the electricity demand is now covered by RES (46%) and prices are skyrocketing.

In view of the above:

1. What is the Commission's position regarding the demand by residents and mass organisations to immediately stop the plans that are detrimental to the interests of residents and the environment, as a result of the 'Green Deal', which dictates investments in RES with the sole criterion of increasing the profitability of 'green business groups'?
2. What is the Commission's position regarding the fact that the designation of an area as Natura not only does not protect it from business exploitation, but — on the contrary — signals the rush of business groups in order to make a profit, destroying the wider region's last remaining natural lungs, such as Mount Othrys, one of the areas of rare natural beauty with rich vegetation, herbs, etc.?
3. What is the Commission's position regarding the fact that ordinary working-class people will not only feel no benefit from this development, but that the hardships they experience, including energy poverty, will be exacerbated as a result of the 'green transition' itself and energy liberalisation?

Submitted: 16.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(26 August 2026)**

The European Green Deal accelerates renewable energy because it serves both citizens and the environment: it reduces greenhouse gas emissions, improves air quality to the benefit of citizens and biodiversity, lowers dependence on imported fossil fuels and strengthens Europe's energy security.

Renewable energy deployment also moderates electricity prices ⁽¹⁾. Renewables have very low operating costs ⁽²⁾ and, when they enter the market, they reduce the need for more expensive fossil fuel-powered generation.

In Spain, for example, wind and solar growth has reduced the influence of expensive fossil generators on the electricity price by 75% since 2019 ⁽³⁾. This is particularly beneficial for vulnerable and energy poor households.

EU nature legislation does not exclude wind projects in Natura 2000 areas ⁽⁴⁾. The Commission has provided guidance specifically on wind energy developments and EU nature legislation to ensure the appropriate balance between the development of clean energy sources that support decarbonisation, and the protection of nature ⁽⁵⁾.

Renewable energy projects can in particular benefit local communities by creating local jobs, generating municipal revenues and providing direct benefits to nearby residents ⁽⁶⁾.

The Renewable Energy Directive (RED) ⁽⁷⁾ includes an obligation for Member States to promote public acceptance of renewable energy projects by means of direct and indirect participation of local communities.

⁽¹⁾ ACER 2026 Monitoring Report, available at <https://www.acer.europa.eu/monitoring/electricity-gas-key-developments-2026>.

⁽²⁾ IRENA (2026), Renewable power generation costs in 2025, International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi, available at https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2026/Jul/IRENA_TEC_RPGC_in_2025_2026.pdf.

⁽³⁾ <https://ember-energy.org/latest-insights/decoupled-how-spain-cut-the-link-between-gas-and-power-prices-using-renewables/>.

⁽⁴⁾ Such projects must be compatible with the site's conservation objectives. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive [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] requires that plans or projects likely to have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects must be subject to an assessment of their implications for the sites and be authorised only if they will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the sites, or exceptionally under the conditions in Article 6(4).

⁽⁵⁾ European Commission: Directorate-General for Environment, *Guidance document on wind energy developments and EU nature legislation*, Publications Office of the European Union, 2020, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2779/095188>.

⁽⁶⁾ See for instance Natalia Fabra et al., 'Do renewable energy investments create local jobs?', *Journal of Public Economics*, Volume 239, November 2024, 105212, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2024.105212>.

⁽⁷⁾ 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, 2023/2413, 31.10.2023.

In December 2025, the Commission proposed the European Grids Package ⁽⁸⁾ which includes sectorial measures on the authorisation procedures for large scale energy infrastructures and new public participation requirements under RED, including in relation to benefit-sharing.

⁽⁸⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/infrastructure/european-grids_en.