

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002523/26
to the Commission
Gerald Hauser (P/E)
(17 June 2026)

Subject: Recent study shows wind turbine infrasound can be harmful to health

Infrasound is sound with a frequency below the lower limit of human hearing. Widely occurring in nature (for example, in earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, etc.), it is also artificially generated by wind turbines. Since infrasound propagates over vast distances with virtually no losses, it can affect the whole body, disrupting cellular processes in humans and animals. As a result, it can also be used as a weapon. ⁽¹⁾

A recent study from the infrasound working group at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz found that areas where wind energy has expanded massively are experiencing a markedly higher rate of newly diagnosed cardiovascular disease (heart arrhythmias, cardiac insufficiency). ⁽²⁾ Infrasound can cause balance disturbances, dizziness, nausea, sleep disorders, changes to blood flow, an increase in blood pressure, and damage to lungs and internal organs. There can also be adverse psychological effects, particularly reduced concentration. ⁽³⁾ In the meantime, three judgments have been handed down by courts in Belgium and France ⁽⁴⁾, awarding local residents compensation for wind-turbine-induced health problems. ⁽⁵⁾

1. Why has it trivialised the dangers associated with wind turbines up to now, and how will it make people aware of these dangers in future?
2. What is its view of the court judgments from Belgium and France acknowledging health problems caused by wind turbines?

Submitted: 17.6.2026

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(19 October 2026)

1. The Commission takes potential health effects of wind turbines seriously, including in relation to infrasound, which also comes from many natural and other human-made sources.

In 2018, the World Health Organisation (WHO) issued the Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region ⁽¹⁾, which include recommendations on wind turbine noise. It was acknowledged that wind turbines can generate infrasound or lower frequencies of sound than traffic sources. While the WHO recommended ⁽²⁾ keeping audible wind turbine noise below 45 decibel level to prevent annoyance and sleep disturbance, there were no specific limits or guidelines provided regarding the issue of infrasound due to the lack of sufficient scientific evidence.

While more recent studies enhance understanding of the acoustic characteristics of wind turbines, including low-frequency sound and infrasound, additional research would be needed to better define potential health risks.

2. In line with the precautionary principle set out in the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU and applicable Union legislation ⁽³⁾, certain projects, including wind farms, shall be subject to relevant assessments before an authorisation or permit is granted so that any likely significant impacts on various environmental factors, including population and human health and biodiversity are avoided, prevented or reduced. Authorisation of such projects is the responsibility of Member States which must ensure compliance with relevant Union and national legislation for their construction and operation.

¹ https://openrathaus.gifhorn.de/dienstleistungen/-/egov-bis-detail/dokument/93477/download?_9_WAR_vrportlet_priv_r_p_action=bisview-dienstleistung-show.

² <https://www.facebook.com/christian.vahl.3/photos/jetzt-ist-es-offiziell-die-neue-studie-an-70000-patienten-der-mainzer-arbeitsgru/26714215328212913/>.

³ <https://tkp.at/2026/05/11/herzinfarkt-vom-windrad-durch-infraschall-hier-sind-die-wirk-mechanismen-im-ueberblick/>.

⁴ <https://tkp.at/2026/02/02/historisches-urteil-infraschall-von-windraedern-als-gesundheitsrisiko-anerkannt/>.

⁵ <https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/la-justice-fait-le-lien-entre-les-problemes-de-sante-d-une-habitante-de-la-somme-et-la-proximite-d-un-parc-eolien-20260122>.

⁽¹⁾ Environmental noise guidelines for the European Region: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789289053563>.

⁽²⁾ This recommendation was rated by WHO as 'conditional' meaning it requires a policy-making process with substantial debate and involvement of various stakeholders. There is less certainty of its efficacy owing to lower quality of evidence of a net benefit, opposing values and preferences of individuals and populations affected or the high resource implications of the recommendation, meaning there may be circumstances or settings in which it will not apply.

⁽³⁾ Such as Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.