

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003081/26
to the Commission
Marcin Sypniewski (ESN)
(22 July 2026)**

Subject: Decommissioning of wind turbines and covering dismantling costs

In many Member States, the development of wind energy is based on long-term land lease contracts between property owners and the companies carrying out the projects concerned. However, once the turbines reach the end of their operational life, problems may arise when it comes to dismantling them and restoring the site concerned, particularly if the entity responsible for carrying out those obligations ceases to exist or becomes insolvent. In such cases, there is a risk of costs being passed on to landowners or public authorities.

With the above in mind:

1. Has the Commission looked into the risks of wind turbines being decommissioned in the Member States without funding being secured to dismantle them and to restore the sites concerned?
2. Does EU law as it stands, in particular the provisions relating to renewables and environmental protection, allow Member States to require investors to provide financial security (e.g. a bank guarantee, a deposit or a fund) to cover the costs of decommissioning facilities?
3. Is the Commission considering bringing forward guidelines or a legislative initiative establishing minimum standards for investors' financial liability for dismantling wind turbines and restoring land so that it can continue to be used?

Submitted: 22.7.2026

**Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(24 September 2026)**

The Commission takes note of the concerns raised regarding the dismantling and site-restoration costs of wind turbines at the end of their operational life and is aware of the risks especially where the responsible operator ceases to exist or becomes insolvent.

Member States may require investors to provide financial security to cover the future costs of decommissioning renewable energy installations, including wind turbines, provided that the requirement complies with the general principles of EU law, such as proportionality, non-discrimination, legal certainty, and, where applicable, State aid and internal market rules.

Therefore, the organisation of such safeguards is, in principle, a matter of national competence, and it is often part of the business plan and assessed in the general permitting procedure

There is no planned initiative concerning possible guidance or legislation establishing minimum standards for investors' financial liability for dismantling wind turbines and restoring land as EU law is broadly compatible with this objective, with the directive ⁽¹⁾ governing environmental assessment requiring Member States to consider the environmental impacts of projects throughout their lifecycle, including, where relevant, decommissioning and restoration.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32011L0092>.