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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.12.2025)

The precautionary principle under Article 191(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) remains a cornerstone of EU environmental policy and guides the Union's gradual approach to innovation. The Commission assesses risks and issues guidance to Member States to ensure compliance with EU law. However, imposing moratoria or halting projects falls mainly within national competence. Implementing rulings of the European Court of Justice requiring suspension of projects posing serious risks equally lies with Member States.

The Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001¹ promotes innovative renewables, such as floating solar, wave and tidal energy while ensuring respect for the EU environmental acquis. The Commission has issued recommendations² and guidance³ to Member States, among other actions, to promote continued research on their potential environmental impacts. The European Ocean Pact⁴ announces a proposal for an 'Ocean Act' that will build on a revision of the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive⁵ and aim at strengthening and modernising maritime spatial planning as a strategic tool. The Commission is currently working on an impact assessment and a call for evidence will be published in 2026.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2018/2001/oj/eng>.

² https://energy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/fd9542e8-6cae-423a-a0ed-cc710a600473_en?filename=C_2025_4024_1_EN_ACT_part1_v7.pdf.

³ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/communication-innovative-technologies-and-forms-renewable-energy-deployment_en.

⁴ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/european-ocean-pact_en.

⁵ <https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/>.