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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.7.2026)

Windfarm projects fall under the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive¹; however, there is no automatic obligation for an EIA. For such projects², Member States have to determine if a given windfarm project is to be made subject to an assessment because of its likely significant effects on the environment, taking into account the relevant selection criteria, inter alia, the location of the project, cumulation with other existing projects and nuisances. If an EIA is to be carried out, it is for the competent authorities of the Member State to decide on the significant effects of the project after examining the information presented by the project developer in the EIA report.

With regard to the assessment of individual projects, such as the windfarm project referred to in the Honourable Member's question, it is for the Member State's authorities to assess compliance with all EU law requirements.

The Commission focuses its enforcement efforts on the most important and structural breaches of EU law affecting the interests of its citizens and business³. Compliance with EU law falls primarily with the national authorities, including judicial ones, who are better placed to assess individual situations such as this case, and intervene if necessary.

¹ Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, OJ L 26, 28.1.2011, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, OJ L 124, 25.4.2014.

² Annex II, point 3(i).

³ Communication from the Commission - EU law: Better results through better application, OJ C 18, 19.1.2017, p. 10–20, and Communication from the Commission - Enforcing EU law for a Europe that delivers, 13.10.2022, COM(2022) 518 final.