

**Question for written answer E-003081/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Ensuring that the ballast in the foundations of offshore wind farms is harmless to the seabed

The foundations for the Fécamp offshore wind farm in Le Havre, which already require 5 000 tonnes of concrete and are 50 metres high, will be filled with ballast that will increase their total weight to 10 000 tonnes. In the case of the Fécamp wind farm, the ballast used will be sand from the surrounding area.

As these structures are intended to disappear in the long term, because they will be dismantled at the end of their operation or because of maritime erosion, we must ensure that the ballast contained in the foundations does not present any additional threat to the marine ecosystem, which is already seriously threatened by the installation of these machines.

Could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Can it guarantee that the ballast contained in offshore wind turbines located in the EU is completely harmless, as is the case with sand, and ensure that waste from public works or waste from other sources is not used?
2. Does the removal of sand in the area where the wind turbines are located still respect the marine ecosystems?