



Dear Sir,
Madam,

**I send you this letter in the frame of the enquiry of the Australian Senate into the impact and justification of the development of wind energy in Australia.
The time limit set by the Australian Senate is February 10, 2011.**

Let me introduce myself:

I am the Secretary General of the European Platform Against Windfarms (EPAW) regrouping hundreds of national and regional associations in Europe, from the Polar circle to the Mediterranean sea, opposing the development of wind energy as a renewable energy and part of the “solution” to global warming or climate change, which it is not.

Old Europe has taken the lead in the fight against the emissions of CO₂ and other gases that seem to contribute to global warming or climate change.

EPAW is of course in favour of Renewable Energies, but **Wind energy, on an industrial scale, is not to be considered as renewable.**

In a nutshell, the weak and erratic production of wind turbines, between 15 and 37% of the time if you bring their weak production back to a period during which they would have been producing electricity at their nominal capacity, means that the production of the so-called “windfarms” has to be compensated (for 85 to 63% of the time) by coal, fuel or gas fuelled power plants, which produce CO₂. The calculations made by our engineers come to the conclusion that very rapidly, **industrially developed wind turbines come to indirectly produce MORE CO₂ than they actually suppress.** In other words, the wind lobby managed to impose itself on the European Union, through a badly perceived functioning of the electricity production systems. European governments were blinded by their will to “do something visible”.

Even among the “Green” movement, many voices are now rising to denounce this fact. Contrary to other REAL renewable energies, Wind Energy, applied on an industrial scale have the contrary effect of what is described by their very influential lobby. Germany, Denmark and Spain, the 3 European countries that have massively invested in wind energy, have also become the largest emitters of CO₂, because of the pro-wind choices that were made, at an incredible cost to our societies.

Let me mention only :

- The financial costs of imposing wind energy and supporting it through subsidies and higher taxation of consumers, both industrial and private
- The huge costs of transforming the electricity grids to accommodate erratic production (not calculated)
- The very real health problems created (noise, infra-sounds) to neighbouring communities
- The loss of property value for the neighbouring communities, without any compensation

- The destruction of landscapes and natural habitats
- The bad effects on tourism (see the dramatically negative effects on world famous landmarks such as the “Mont Saint Michel” in France
- The practical dangers such as ice or even blade throws, hundreds of meters away at a speed of 300 km/hour
- The destruction – sometimes massive – of birds, especially raptors, and bats

We represent hundreds of thousands of European citizens affected and not listened to by the European political world that has rushed into badly conceived decisions. We have the support of prominent figures such as ex-French President Valery Giscard d’Estaing and members of parliament who only start to perceive the damage done and the cost thereof.

We ask the Australian MPs to think twice before they take decisions in favour of the wind lobby. The present situation in Europe is a disgrace for democracy and it only starts to emerge. Don’t make the same mistake!

EPAW is of course ready to support your research and studies into the topic. In attachment, you will find the letter sent to the European Commission in 2009, which summarizes our positions.

With our very best regards,

Democratically yours,

For EPAW

Luc Rivet
Secretary General