Wind Energy Dis- and Misinformation

Wind EUROPE CASM technology

Undermining Europe's Security and Competitiveness

Executive summary

Dis- and misinformation have evolved into a **systemic risk to Europe's security, competitiveness and ability to act.** Coordinated false and misleading narratives distort public debate, undermine trust in democratic decision-making and delay the deployment of homegrown, affordable energy at a time when Europe urgently needs it.

This report shows how a **large and well organised ecosystem** is actively undermining Europe's energy discourse. Across social media, anti-wind actors spread recurring myths on alleged health, environmental and economic impacts of wind energy, reaching **millions of Europeans**. These narratives are amplified by platform algorithms that reward fear and outrage. More concerning still, misleading frames **spill into parts of the mainstream media**, lending greater legitimacy and reach to false claims.

There are grave real-world consequences. Dis- and misinformation are eroding **business certainty**, raising investment risk and paralysing political decision-making.

Across Europe, wind energy projects worth **billions of euros** have been delayed or cancelled following campaigns built on exaggerated or false claims. The results of not building these wind farms are: higher electricity prices for consumers, job losses, weakened industrial value chains and a slower transition away from imported fossil fuels.

The report sets out three core recommendations for policymakers to address wind dis- and misinformation:

Ensure social media platforms take responsibility for dis- and misinformation.

Social media has become the primary arena where false and misleading narratives on wind energy spread at scale, with growing implications for Europe's democratic resilience and security. The EU and Member States must step up coordinated action to ensure online information environments support fact-based debates, including by addressing foreign interference targeting wind energy.

Act on the public mandate to deliver renewable energy at scale.

Europeans overwhelmingly support stronger EU action on renewable energy, giving policymakers a clear mandate to lead. At a time of overlapping energy, competitiveness and climate crises, decisive action is needed to unlock investment, reduce costs and reinforce public support through a more secure and resilient energy system.

Strengthen media and digital literacy to build long-term resilience.

Investing in media and digital literacy from an early age is essential to help citizens recognise manipulation and misinformation. Member States should fully implement the EU's Digital Education Action Plan to strengthen energy and climate literacy across Europe.

Contents

Foreword

By Tinne Van der Straeten, WindEurope CEO

Europe has a huge problem. War, energy prices and climate damage are hitting at the same time. They all expose the same weakness: Europe still runs on imported fossil fuels.

The conflict in the Middle East shows the cost of that weakness. Over the first 44 days of the conflict, European taxpayers paid €22 billion more for energy imports - not because we imported more energy, but because prices surged.[1] That's around €500 million in extra costs every single day. And we know where this can lead. In 2022, Russia's weaponisation of energy triggered a crisis that cost Europe more than €1 trillion.[2] That is the scale of shock we may face again and again as long as we remain dependent.

Europe cannot afford this. If we fail to cut our fossil fuel dependence, we do not just risk another price spike. We risk Europe's competitiveness. We risk the prosperity built up by previous generations.

The solution is clear. Europe needs more home-grown energy. It needs reliable power at scale. And it needs it fast. Today, fossil fuels still make up roughly 70% of Europe's energy mix. That leaves us exposed to volatile global markets and foreign authoritarian regimes. Every year, Europe spends around €500 billion importing fossil fuels. That money leaves our economies instead of strengthening them.

Renewable energy is Europe's way out. A renewables-based energy system would save Europe around €1.6 trillion compared to a scenario where we fail to reach net zero.[3] That is roughly what Europeans spend on healthcare every year. And this figure does not even include climate-related damages. Nor does it include the increased costs of the next major energy shock, which may come at any time.

Wind energy is already delivering. Wind power supplies around 20% of Europe's electricity. Every year, wind turbines avoid around 100 billion cubic metres of fossil fuel consumption[4] - equivalent to the capacity of 500 large oil tankers. New wind farms can be built quickly: often within a year on land and just two years at sea. Wind is one of Europe's fastest and cheapest tools to strengthen energy security.

But the public debate on wind energy is broken. Some actors take real challenges and exaggerate them beyond recognition. They run coordinated narratives and highly effective social-media campaigns. They falsely present wind power as an ideological project that harms communities, weakens the economy and threatens nature.

This is not just a communications problem. Dis- and misinformation pose a competitiveness and security issue. They undermine trust. They lead to project cancellations and delays. They raise costs for citizens and businesses. More fundamentally, they risk paralysing Europe's ability to make rational decisions about its energy future.

If dis- and misinformation continue to distort the debate, Europe will struggle to respond to the crises ahead. Worse still, Europe risks losing something essential: its capacity to act rationally in the face of complex challenges.

This report shows the scale of the problem. Millions of Europeans have been exposed to misleading claims about wind energy. This has enabled anti-wind campaigns to spread across Europe. Projects have been delayed or killed. Jobs and billions in investment have been put at risk. Cheaper electricity has been blocked.

Confronting dis- and misinformation is about safeguarding Europe's ability to shape its own destiny.

The facts are clear. Europeans support renewable energy.[5] Renewables are the cheapest source of power, even when you factor in grid and storage costs.[6] They make Europe more resilient to energy shocks.[7] What is missing is a resilient information environment.

Journalists and policymakers must put facts back at the centre of the debate. Europe must strengthen media literacy so people can recognise manipulation. And we need a serious debate about how to ensure that social media is a place for fair, fact-based discussion, not a driver of polarisation and fear.

Europe's security and competitiveness depend on our ability to take decision grounded in facts. This report is a contribution to that effort.

Introduction

Media consumption habits are changing at an unprecedented speed. Not long ago, most people consumed their news through television and newspapers. These traditional media outlets served as gatekeepers, adhering to established editorial standards and relatively predictable reporting patterns.

Today's world is increasingly dominated by social media algorithms. More than 80% of EU citizens consume digital sources such as social media, online news portals and blogs at least once a week to follow social and political current affairs. And almost 80% of social media users in the EU say that their social media feeds recommend them political content without them having searched for it.[8] This shift brings unprecedented risks not only to our democratic systems and public discourse, but also to the stability of our economies and the wider security of Europe, as this report highlights.

Despite all the polarisation and political infighting around climate and energy, there is a broad consensus among Europeans that Governments must tackle climate change and expand renewable energy. 81% of EU citizens support the EU's Clean Industrial Deal target of climate neutrality by 2050. 88% say it is important for the EU to take action to increase renewable energy.[9] Across Europe, a majority of citizens want wind, solar and hydropower to supply most of their energy demand.[10]

But when it comes to implementing this agenda, Europe often seems paralysed. The policies needed to decarbonise our economies face increasing resistance.[11] The discourse on social media is particularly polarised, painting a distorted picture of reality.[12] This online discourse shapes political incentives, delays legislation and obstructs investments.[13]

As shown in this report, a vast ecosystem across Europe is driving this distortion. It includes actors from media and politics, as well as civil society groups and individual activists. While they differ in objectives, audience reach and communication style, they all feed into the same dis- and misinformation narratives.

These narratives have an impact on real-life perceptions. A majority of Germans, Belgians, Dutch, French and Swiss now believe that transitioning to renewables will raise household power prices,[14] despite the International Energy Agency (IEA) confirming the opposite.[15] In France, Poland, Belgium and Switzerland, roughly half or more believe that electric cars (EVs) are just as bad for the planet as petrol or gas-powered cars,[16] despite a strong academic consensus that EVs have a significantly lower environmental impact than petrol or diesel cars.[17]

More worrying still, dis- and misinformation narratives are rising rapidly. Germany is a case in point: the share of Germans who think the energy transition will damage their country's industry jumped from 25% to 64% between 2017 and 2025.[18] In 2025, only 45% of Europeans believed the energy transition would secure lasting prosperity, down 5% on 2024. In Spain and Italy, this figure fell by around 10% in a single year.[19] All this is in spite of the clear evidence that renewables play a crucial role in boosting prosperity and industry by alleviating energy costs. A renewables-based energy system would save Europe €1.6 trillion compared to an energy system which fails to deliver net-zero.[20]

More than 80% of EU citizens believe they have been exposed to disinformation or fake news in the past seven days.[21] And around 50% of EU citizens say they find it difficult to differentiate between reliable information and disinformation about climate change on social media.[22] In 2026, EU citizens ranked disinformation as their second-biggest concern, with 69% of respondents saying they were "highly concerned".[23]

Who are the actors driving dis- and misinformation? What are their main talking points? And how are they undermining Europe's ability to deliver on an agenda that the vast majority of its citizens are calling for?

Focusing on social media content, this report answers these questions by examining a critical frontline in this struggle: the European wind energy industry.

It first gives a general introduction to the actors attacking wind energy with dis- and misinformation narratives. It then presents a f**irst-of-its-kind mapping of Europe's anti-wind energy ecosystem on social media**, showing the actors involved, the narratives they promote, and the patterns of activity that connect them across borders. It shows how these narratives are damaging Europe's energy security efforts. Finally, it concludes with practical recommendations on what policymakers can do in response.

1

General overview of the actors spreading wind dis- and misinformation

What is dis- and misinformation?

- Disinformation is “false or misleading content that is disseminated with the intention of deceiving or seeking economic or political gains.’’
- “It differs from misinformation, which is false or misleading information that is spread without harmful intentions.’’[24]

General overview of the actors spreading wind dis- and misinformation

Wind energy-related dis- and misinformation does not come from a single source, nor does it follow a uniform logic. It is driven by a diverse ecosystem of actors operating across civil society, politics and the media landscape, reinforcing each other’s narratives, often with differing motivations. These include local and transnational anti-wind advocacy groups, political actors across the ideological spectrum, foreign influence networks linked to Russia, and actors aligned with (fossil fuel) business interests. Alongside them, a wide range of media outlets, from fringe conspiracy websites to parts of the mainstream press, play a critical role in amplifying and normalising anti-wind narratives.

These actors differ not only in their objectives but also in how they communicate. Organised anti-wind groups are typically the most prolific and regular content producers. They maintain a constant online presence, mobilise supporters across platforms, and frequently rely on fringe conspiracy theories or demonstrably false claims, particularly on health, environmental or societal impacts.

By contrast, far-right political actors and segments of mainstream media tend to rely on more selective narratives. Rather than promoting overt falsehoods, they focus on claims that contain elements of truth but are presented in a misleading or distorted way - such as exaggerated cost figures, isolated environmental incidents presented as systemic failures, or legitimate infrastructure challenges framed as evidence that wind energy is inherently unviable. This approach makes these narratives harder to challenge, as they operate within the bounds of plausibility while still significantly undermining public trust and policy support.

Together, these dynamics create a layered information environment in which extreme misinformation, strategic distortion and selective framing coexist and mutually reinforce each other. Understanding the different actors involved - and the distinct narrative strategies they deploy - is essential to assessing how dis- and misinformation spreads, why it resonates with different audiences, and how it translates into tangible political, regulatory and economic damage for the European wind sector.

Anti-wind groups

Organised anti-wind groups are among the most active and radicalised actors in the wind dis- and misinformation landscape. They routinely deploy a wide range of arguments against wind energy and do not shy away from fringe conspiracy theories, especially around alleged (infrasound-related) health effects or catastrophic environmental damage, even where such claims have been repeatedly disproven.[25] As outlined in chapter 3, sustained exposure to these narratives can contribute to significant radicalisation, with some campaigns escalating into real-life intimidation, sabotage or physical violence.

Most anti-wind groups present themselves as local grassroots initiatives and are indeed often organised at a municipal level. Other groups are organised at the national level, and even facilitate regional and cross-border cooperation, including joint messaging and petitioning, such as those associated with the group ''EU Wind.''[26]

Anti-wind groups are often highly active on social media, where they post large volumes of content and interact with supporters, even if individual posts typically generate limited engagement beyond their core audiences. Activities are not limited to the online space. Public meetings, on-the-ground protests and site occupations remain central tactics of real-life protest. A recurring tactic is the mobilisation of activists who travel across regions or countries to attend demonstrations, presenting themselves as local resistance while drawing on externally organised networks and resources.

Motvind Norge illustrates how a nationally organised anti-wind group operates in practice. Founded in 2019, Motvind defines its objective as stopping all wind power development in Norway, regardless of location or project design. The organisation has grown rapidly since its creation and reports more than 20,000 members nationwide,[27] making it one of the most prominent anti-wind actors in Europe.

A central pillar of Motvind's campaigning is the portrayal of wind energy as a severe and systemic threat to human health and the natural environment. In early project phases, the organisation systematically approaches municipalities with health-focused arguments, urging local authorities to block wind projects pre-emptively.[28] These health-based claims, for example, around infrasound, are a recurring feature of Motvind's public messaging,[29] despite the absence of scientific consensus supporting such effects[30]

A Facebook post of a Greek anti-wind group praising the blockade of a wind construction project.

Alongside formal campaigning, Motvind has also been involved in unauthorised protest actions, including blocking public roads with chains during demonstrations against wind projects. Allegations of intimidation and escalation have also emerged in local conflicts around wind development.[31]

Motvind has also been repeatedly linked to pro-Russian information environments. Steigan.no and Derimot.no, both outlets that frequently disseminate Kremlin-aligned

narratives, have repeatedly amplified Motvind's anti-wind content and messaging.[32] While this does not imply formal cooperation, it highlights how Motvind's narratives circulate within broader information ecosystems that are also used to distribute Kremlin-aligned narratives. The environmental NGO Bellona has highlighted that Eivind Salen, an advisor with Motvind, posted information containing pro-Kremlin narratives, underscoring how Motvind-adjacent communication channels interact with wider Kremlin-linked information environments.[33]

Activists

Alongside organised groups, a distinct category of activist social media accounts plays a major role in spreading wind dis- and misinformation. These accounts appear to be run by individuals, often anonymously. They frequently post about energy topics, usually through simple, low-effort content and by amplifying material produced by others.

This actor type illustrates how vulnerable today's public discourse on social media has become: any individual can go viral with misleading narratives without accountability, oversight or quality standards. Even when content or accounts are removed, they can be recreated instantly.

One example is a German Instagram account (name and source hidden for personal privacy reasons), which accumulated more than 180,000 likes and shares over the past twelve months. The account's output consists almost entirely of reshared content, from mainstream media to anti-wind groups, including false claims ranging from alleged infrasound-related health impacts to the assertion that wind turbines cause net greenhouse-gas emissions because their construction supposedly emits more than they can offset over their lifetime. The most successful videos reach hundreds of thousands of views and generate thousands of likes.

A German anti-wind activist sharing a headline from the far-right "The Epoch Times", warning of wind energy's alleged health harms through infrasound.

Media

Across Europe, hundreds of media articles on wind energy are published every day. Many appear in outlets with established editorial standards. Their reporting is fact-based, sourced and generally trustworthy. But the information space is far from uniform. Alongside high-quality journalism, there is a growing volume of problematic content that distorts facts, misrepresents developments or spreads outright falsehoods about wind energy.

A significant share of these misleading narratives comes from the expanding ecosystem of alternative and fringe media. The most extreme false claims originate from small, low-effort websites that offer little transparency about who runs them or what standards they follow. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, some have become more popular and institutionalised: their writing style is more polished, their claims are embedded in longer texts, and their articles appear more professionally produced. These outlets reach a notable part of society, especially as their content is supported by activists and anti-wind groups.

The more worrying development lies within parts of the centre-right mainstream media, where narratives championed by fringe outlets increasingly appear in modified form. These publications do not question man-made climate change or the role of wind energy in reducing emissions. Instead, they misrepresent the practical realities of renewable expansion. Examples include Italian newspaper's Il Giornale's headline "Green infrastructure and transition flop: how green energy has turned Europe off"[34], which falsely blamed the "Iberian blackout'' (of 28 April 2025) on renewables even as authorities stated renewables were not the cause;[35] the UK newspaper The Telegraph's headline "Wind farms push up household energy bills by £70",[36] misrepresenting wind's positive effect on consumer bills; and Swiss newspaper NZZ's headline "Exploding electricity and gas prices: The energy transition is driving Germany into deindustrialisation",[37] which attributes high prices to the energy transition rather than the actual driver: elevated fossil-fuel import costs.

This trend is part of a broader pattern: the NGOs QuotaClimat, Data For Good and Science Feedback identified 665 cases of climate misinformation in French mainstream media in 2025, most of them linked to energy policy.[38] Together, these dynamics show how mainstream coverage can inadvertently legitimise misleading narratives and deepen public confusion around Europe's energy system.

Politicians

Politicians across Europe have identified the energy debate as a strategic opportunity to gain political support and mobilise protest voters. With the energy transition shaping local landscapes, industrial competitiveness and household costs, and with anti-wind groups spreading increasingly radical claims, the topic has become highly emotional and politically salient. Positioning themselves in contrast to science and the political mainstream, especially far-right parties frame renewables as a threat to national interests, local communities or economic stability, even when these claims are demonstrably false.[39]

Examples are widespread. In Austria, Manfred Haimbuchner of the far-right FPÖ (Freedom Party) claimed on Facebook that his Federal State's industry "doesn't run on wind turbines" and that wind can only ever play a minor role in the energy mix - wind already supplies 14% of Austria's electricity. In Latvia, Edmunds Zivtiņš from the Latvija pirmajā vietā (Latvia First) Party has asserted on Facebook that wind turbines threaten human health due to "electromagnetic fields" and infrasound, echoing some of the most radical anti-wind conspiracy narratives. Richard Tice, Deputy Leader of Reform UK, called wind energy "very expensive" and "a con job'' on X, despite wind and solar being Europe's cheapest sources of energy, even when factoring-in system costs.[40]

This dynamic is no longer confined to the fringes. Much like the way "alternative media" narratives have seeped into parts of the centre-right press, far-right talking points are increasingly influencing centre-right political discourse. Centre-right politicians rarely dispute the scientific consensus on climate change or the fact that renewables reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Instead, they question the practical pathways to reach climate and energy goals. The effect is the same: sowing uncertainty, slowing down policy, and making it harder for Governments to act.

The UK's Conservative Party's Shadow Energy Secretary Claire Coutinho shared a The Times headline on X claiming the UK Government would have to choose between "blackouts or missing net-zero targets," reinforcing the false dichotomy that renewables inevitably lead to less grid stability.[41] In France, Emmanuel Macron suggested that the Iberian blackout resulted from an overreliance on renewables[42] - authorities clarified that renewables were not the cause.[43] And Swedish Deputy Prime Minister Ebba Bush has described the reliance

Richard Tice, Deputy Leader of Reform UK, claiming on X that wind energy was very expensive.

on weather-dependent energy as a "dead end",[44] aligning herself rhetorically with far-right scepticism of the transition despite Sweden's decades-long success in integrating wind power.

Together, these patterns show how far-right narratives increasingly shape the mainstream's arguments of Europe's energy future - not by rejecting climate targets outright, but by undermining the credibility of the very tools needed to achieve them.

Actors operating in the dark

Behind the actors spreading wind dis- and misinformation sits a second layer of supporting actors that deliberately operate out of sight. Rather than communicating directly, they support anti-wind actors to speak on their behalf. By doing so, they can advance their objectives while avoiding scrutiny that would risk discrediting their messages.

The Kremlin is a key supporter of the anti-wind ecosystem. According to NATO, the Kremlin has become the main driver of conversations harming green energy on social media, as it has stepped up its attacks on the sector since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.[45] Renewables have become a major target of the Kremlin due to their ability to make Europe more energy independent, reducing Russia's strategic leverage and energy revenues.[46] A report of Poland's military counterintelligence service estimates that **Russia and Belarus spend $2-4bn annually on influencing public discourses**, with a significant part targeting green energy policies and climate activism.[47]

Another set of interests repeatedly linked to wind dis-and misinformation campaigns is the fossil fuel industry. Across different countries, there are longstanding allegations that fossil fuel-aligned actors have funded grassroots-appearing movements, promoted dis- and misinformation about wind energy, and shaped public debate while presenting themselves as legitimate civic groups concerned about local or environmental issues.

The most detailed evidence comes from a 2023 study by Brown University's Climate and Development Lab, which mapped the anti-offshore-wind movement in the eastern United States.

The study found that organisations active in this network received more than $72m in donations from fossil fuel and dark money donors between 2017 and 2021. The research documents how these financial flows support anti-wind groups that publicly frame themselves as local opposition while benefiting from legal support and coordinated messaging.[48]

The anti-wind groups of this network regularly employ wind dis- and misinformation narratives, such as blaming whale deaths on wind projects.[49] Some of them, such as Protect Our Coast NJ, continue to get significant reach on social media. While their activities are centred on the United States, their content circulates widely online, reaching audiences in Europe.

Importantly, these findings are based only on publicly available data. Given the use of opaque funding structures and intermediary organisations, the full scale of external support behind anti-wind campaigns is likely larger than what can currently be documented.

X post by Protect Our Coast NJ reflecting various wind dis- and misinformation narratives, such as whale deaths and rising bills.

2

Research findings: Europe's anti-wind ecosystem on social media

Research findings: Europe's anti-wind ecosystem on social media

Social media is the central arena in which the anti-wind ecosystem operates. It is where actors attacking the wind industry with dis- and misinformation find the fewest constraints and the greatest opportunities to scale their narratives. Unlike traditional media, social platforms are largely free from editorial oversight, fact-checking requirements or journalistic accountability.

Platform algorithms further reinforce this dynamic. Content that provokes strong emotional reactions – fear, anger, resentment or outrage – is systematically amplified, giving misleading or false claims disproportionate visibility. As a result, distorted narratives about wind energy spread faster and reach far larger audiences than they would in a more regulated media environment.[50]

These dynamics allow anti-wind actors to tap into vast and highly receptive online communities, in particular far-right ecosystems that are predisposed to antagonise anything framed as "left-wing", "green" or "woke". Social media is where organised anti-wind groups, fringe activists, political actors and alternative media converge. They recycle and reinforce each other's claims, coordinate messaging across platforms, and mutually expand their reach.

To understand the scale, structure and impact of the anti-wind ecosystem shaping Europe's energy discourse on social media, WindEurope conducted an online investigation in collaboration with *CASM Technology*. This analysis presents a first-time mapping of Europe's online anti-wind energy ecosystem: the actors involved, the dis- and misinformation-related narratives they promote, and the patterns of activity that connect them across countries. Additional methodology and research transparency notes can be found here.

The study examines anti-wind online activity across Europe between 1 May 2024 and 28 February 2026, drawing on content from six major social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube, TikTok and LinkedIn.

Starting from known and suspected anti-wind actors, new and previously unknown accounts operating in the online ecosystem were identified through a process of account discovery. This was complemented by targeted keyword searches on X and TikTok to identify additional relevant content beyond known networks.

To further strengthen coverage and interpretation, dozens of communications professionals working across the European renewables sector contributed intelligence, contextual input and validation. Data collection for selected platforms was supported through The Bright Initiative by Bright Data.[51]

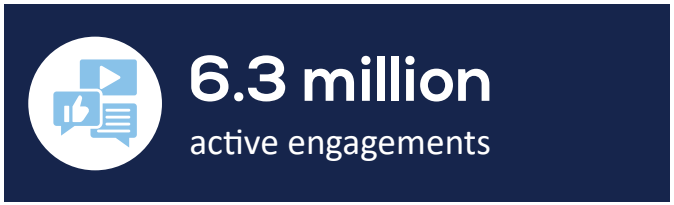
The scale of Europe's anti-wind social media network

The study identifies a total of 573 accounts actively engaged in anti-wind activity across the six platforms. Over the study period, this network produced upwards of 43,000 anti-wind posts, including both dis- and misinformation-related narratives and broader oppositional content. While it is not possible to know the full scale of all social media activity online, based on the breadth of countries covered and the consistency of observed patterns, this network likely captures the core nodes of the publicly visible online anti-wind ecosystem across Europe.

Between May 2024 and February 2026, the monitored anti-wind network produced **42,947 posts** across the six platforms, generating approximately **6.3 million active engagements** and **at least tens of millions of views**. This illustrates the ability of a relatively contained network of actors to reach and mobilise large audiences across European information environments.

Of the 42,947 posts captured, 29,336 posts (68%) were classified into dis- and misinformation-related anti-wind narratives, with the remaining 13,611 posts (32%) classified as non-disinformation oppositional content. Much of the online anti-wind ecosystem is driven by dis- and misinformation-related narrative content, but it also contains a substantial layer of mobilisation, procedural contestation, and oppositional messaging that does not rely on substantive claims.

Within the sample, Facebook and X contain the highest volumes of anti-wind content, while YouTube, TikTok and Instagram, despite carrying less of it, tend to attract substantially higher audience engagement.

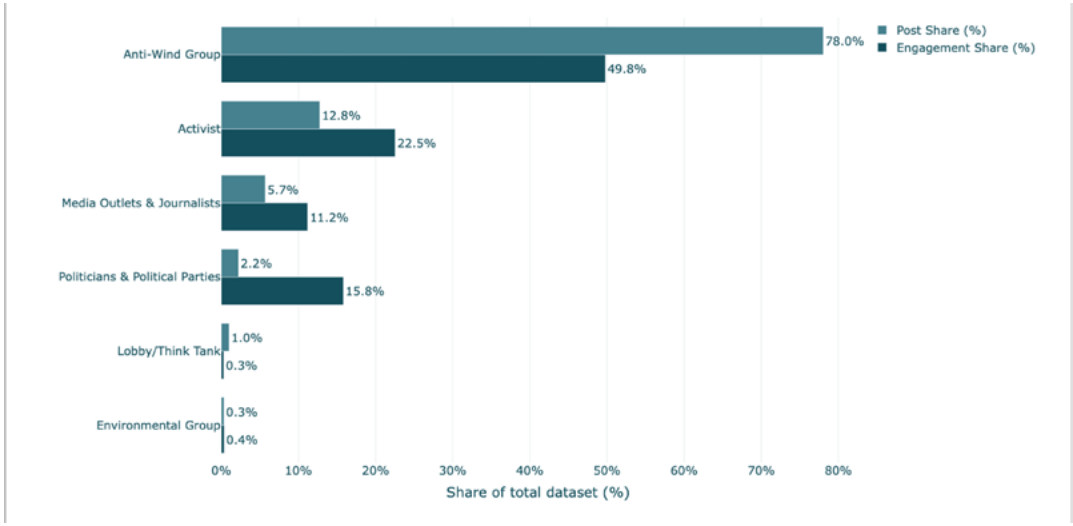


The actors shaping the social media discourse

A small number of actor types account for most of the content, but not always most of the attention.

Anti-Wind Groups dominate the ecosystem by posting volume. They produce 78% of all posts in the network and account for half of all engagement. Other actor types play a different role in the network. Activists account for a much smaller share of anti-wind content (13%) but generate nearly a quarter of all engagement. Media outlets & journalists are smaller again in volume - just 6% of posts - but still generate 11% of engagement.

The clearest outlier are politicians & political Parties. They account for only 2% of the anti-wind content in the network, but generate 16% of all engagement. Their posts average more than 1,000 - by far the highest of any actor category. This suggests that when political actors engage in anti-wind discourse, they can push these narratives well beyond the core movement audience and into broader political and public debate.



Share of total posts and total engagement by actor category (May 2024 – Feb 2026).

Key amplifiers

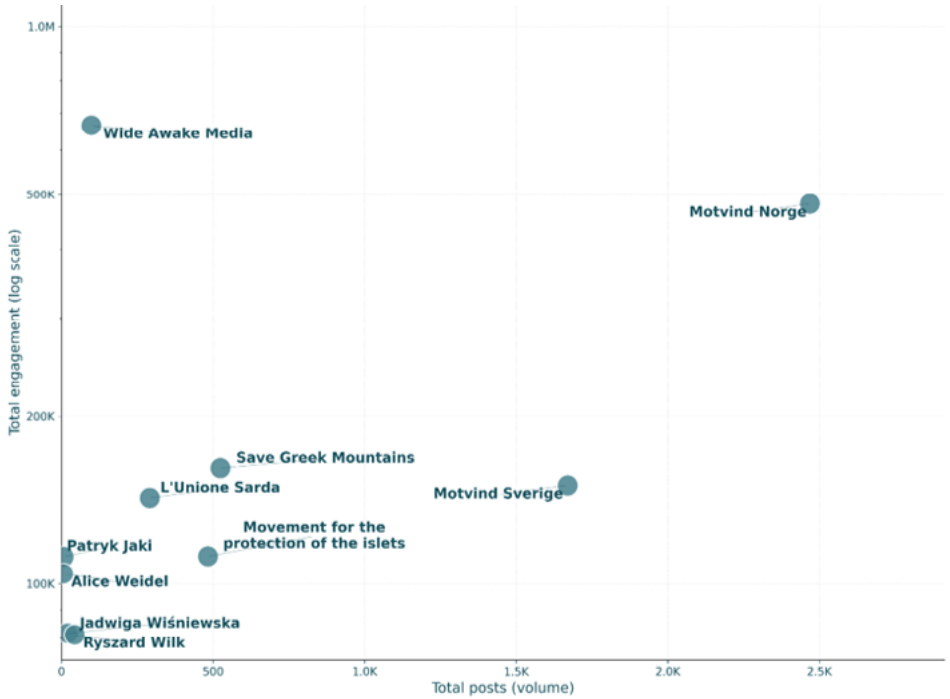
A relatively small number of accounts drive a disproportionate share of audience attention in the anti-wind network. Wide Awake Media, a UK-based account with a large following on X, is the single largest amplifier in the network, accounting for 11% of all audience engagement from just 98 anti-wind energy posts, followed by the Norwegian anti-wind group Motvind Norge, with 8% of all engagement. Together, these two accounts account for almost 20% of audience interaction in the network, showing how even limited amounts of content from high-profile actors can dominate attention around anti-wind narratives online.

These leading amplifiers do not all play the same part in the network. Some operate as regional, highly organised anti-wind movement infrastructure: the Norwegian and Swedish anti-wind groups Motvind Norge and Motvind Sverige produce large volumes of anti-wind messaging, cross-post one another's content, and actively mobilise audiences to take action. Others, including Wide Awake Media, post less frequently about wind but attract very high levels of engagement when they do, likely reaching audiences beyond the core anti-wind movement.

Wind Awake Media falsely claiming wind turbines generate less energy than it takes to build them. The CO2 emitted in producing, installing, operating and disposing a modern wind turbine is regained within less than a year of operation.[52]

Political actors also attract exceptionally strong engagement when they comment on wind energy. While not the largest contributors by volume, they are among the actors most capable of pushing anti-wind narratives into wider political debate. This is especially evident among political figures in Poland and Germany, including Patryk Jaki, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Ryszard Wilk and Alice Weidel, who reached particularly large audiences with anti-wind content.

Several highly regional and localised accounts in the network also have significant reach. The Greek Facebook groups Movement for the Protection of the Islets and Save Greek Mountains (note: both names have been translated/simplified) are prominent nodes in Greece's online anti-wind ecosystem, generating substantial engagement through narratives about environmental destruction, other false/misleading claims and calls to action such as "resistance hikes", rallies, events, and petitions. L'Unione Sarda, a local Sardinian news outlet, similarly shows how a regional media outlet can play a prominent role in local anti-wind discourse and gain traction within the wider network.



Selected amplifiers by posting volume and total engagement (log scale), May 2024 – Feb 2026.

Dis- and misinformation-related anti-wind narratives

Across the monitored network, dis- and misinformation-related content clusters around a relatively small and stable set of recurring anti-wind narratives:

Hidden interests, fraud and anti-democratic narratives (7,453 posts):

Portray developers and supporters of wind projects as greedy actors willing to accept major environmental and social harm in pursuit of profit as well as an imposition by distant political or economic elites on unwilling local populations. This distrust in public organisations is common for conspiracy movements.[53]

Environmental destruction narratives (5,713 posts):

Portray wind turbines as deeply harmful to nature and wildlife, creating the misleading impression that wind energy has a profound net negative impact on ecosystems.

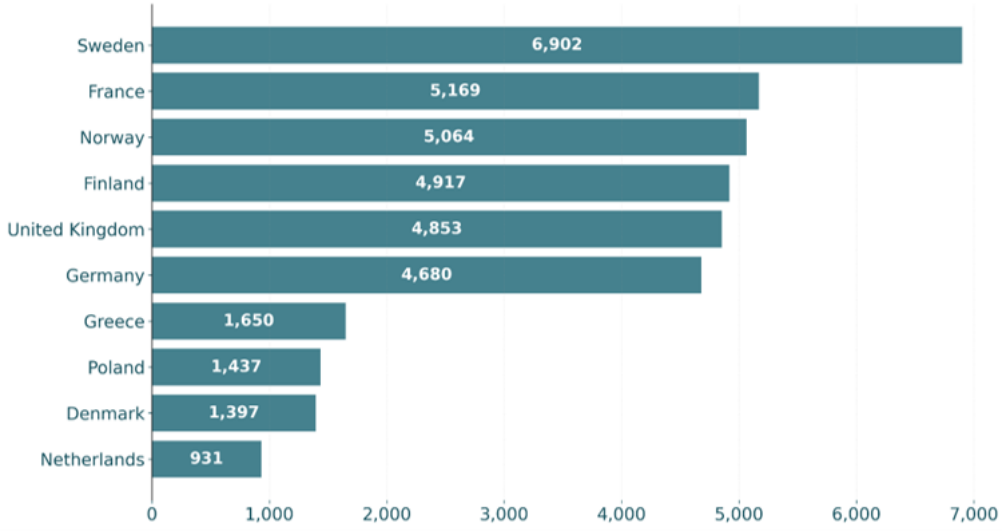
Technological unviability narratives (4,700 posts):

Question the technological viability of wind power, depicting turbines as destabilising, drastically increasing blackout risks, and failing to reliably supply households and industry.

Economic failure narratives (4,186 posts):

Frame wind projects as economically nonsensical, defying basic market logic.

Together, these four narratives account for 75% of all anti-wind dis- and misinformation-related content captured in the network, and 80% of the engagement it generated, indicating that anti-wind messaging across Europe is concentrated around a relatively small set of narratives. Individual posts do not necessarily articulate the narratives explicitly, but they consistently align with and reinforce these broader narrative frames.



Top 10 countries by anti-wind posting volume (May 2024 – Feb 2026)

Geographic variation of narratives

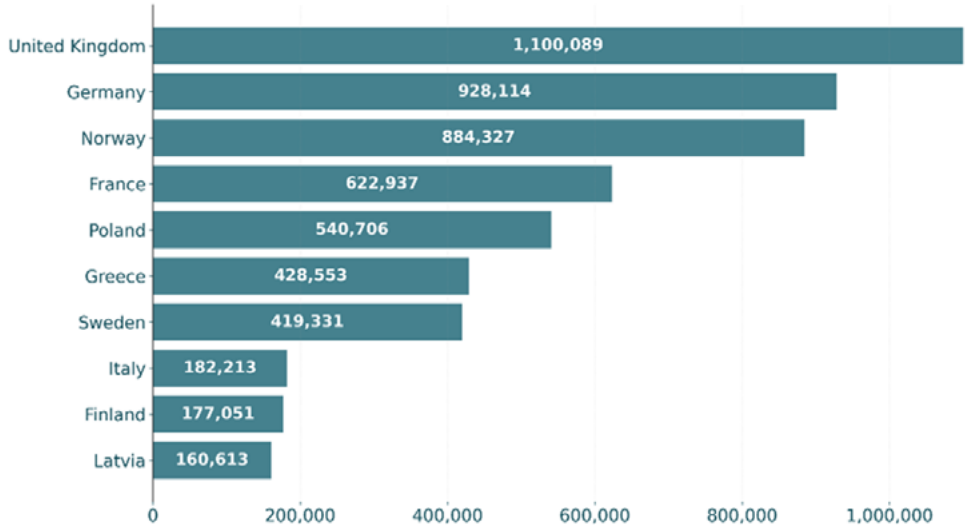
Anti-wind content in the network is concentrated in a relatively small number of countries. Sweden accounts for the largest share of posts, followed by France, Norway, Finland, the United Kingdom, and Germany. Together, these six countries account for 74% of all posts in the dataset.[54]

However, the countries producing the most anti-wind content are not always the ones attracting the most reaction. Poland, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Italy, Greece and the Czech Republic produced less anti-wind content in the overall network, but the content they did produce tended to attract more engagement.

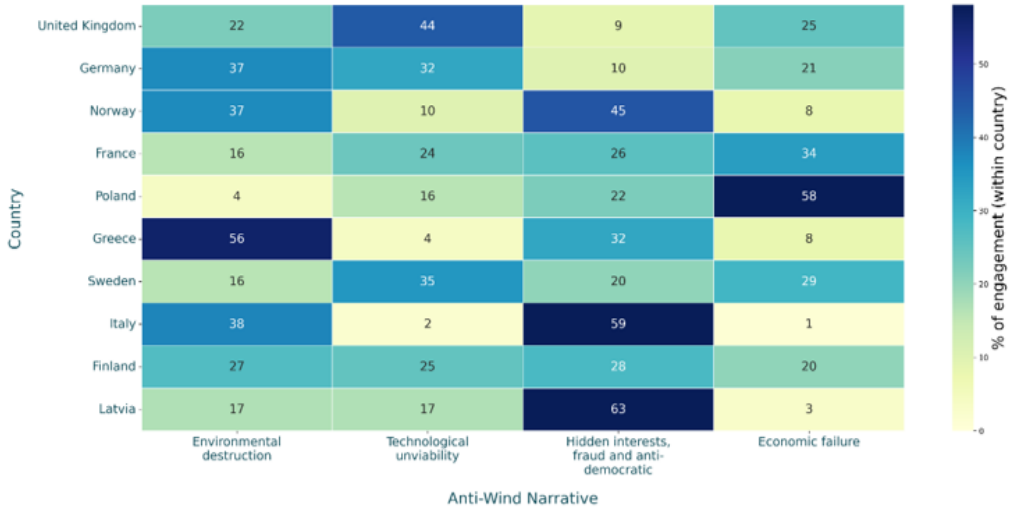
In part, these differences reflect the composition of actors captured within each country's online anti-wind ecosystem. In the network, countries with lower engagement, such as Sweden and Finland, are heavily shaped by large volumes of Facebook-based anti-wind group activity, which produces a near-constant flow of content but relatively modest interaction. By contrast, Poland, Italy and Bulgaria include a more mixed set of anti-wind actors with broader reach, including activists, media-linked accounts or political figures.

Actors across the network draw from the same repertoire of core anti-wind narratives, regardless of country. Yet clear geographic patterns emerge in which narratives attract the most engagement.

Economic failure and technical unviability narratives are especially prominent in the United Kingdom, Sweden, France and Poland. Other countries are shaped more strongly by environmental and governance-related narratives. In Greece, environmental destruction narratives account for a majority of engagement, while Germany combines environmental claims with technological unviability narratives. Hidden interests, fraud and anti-democratic narratives receive significant traction in Latvia, Italy and Norway, while Finland shows the most even spread of engagement across all four narratives.



Top 10 countries by anti-wind posting engagement (May 2024 – Feb 2026)



Top anti-wind content by engagement and country (top 10), May 2024 – Feb 2026

3

Economic damage of wind dis- and misinformation

Economic damage of wind dis- and misinformation

There is a prevailing understanding among European media, policymakers and the public that dis- and misinformation are a democracy and public discourse problem. That it is mainly used to undermine democratic institutions. But it is more than that. It is a weapon that can be used by the EU's systemic rivals and powerful economic actors to attack the business model of European companies. Leveraged by social media, dis- and misinformation have become a major threat to individual businesses as well as Europe's wider economic competitiveness.

With the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the temporary closure of the Strait of Hormuz one thing has become crystal clear: delaying Europe's transition to home-grown, competitive renewables not only impacts Europe's businesses. It casts a shadow on Europe's economic competitiveness and wider (energy) security.

The European wind industry is one of several business sectors affected by these dynamics, with the pharmaceutical[55], automotive[56] and mobile network[57] industries being other prominent targets. As shown in the previous chapters, there are various groups that stand to win from a delayed transition to renewables. These actors differ in their motivation to spread disinformation.

The European wind industry is affected by three different types of attacks.

01. Dis- and misinformation facilitating blanket bans and other radical anti-wind policies

Policymakers usually have little incentive to target a specific business sector with extreme policies unless voters see these measures as justified.

But dis- and misinformation narratives can successfully demonise business activities, fuelling public outrage and entrenching negative perceptions over time. Policymakers may then capitalise on these sentiments for electoral gain. This creates incentives to enact punitive or harmful policies against targeted sectors. This dynamic can be particularly attractive for populist policymakers, who frame themselves as the only voice willing to oppose an allegedly morally corrupt or unethical mainstream consensus.

For example, US President Donald Trump repeatedly attacks the American wind energy industry, despite a long-standing bipartisan consensus in support of it. He deliberately frames wind energy as a failed and illegitimate instrument of the political mainstream, proclaimed as "Deep State." Dis- and misinformation narratives play a crucial role in sustaining this framing. As documented by numerous fact-checking organisations, many of Trump's public statements on wind energy contain demonstrably false or misleading claims.[58]

Underpinned by these provenly false claims, the Trump Administration implemented policy measures aimed at stopping US offshore wind. These policies run counter to economic rationale. Trump Administration policies targeting the domestic offshore wind industry are estimated to **delay or cancel around $115bn in investments,**[59] **threaten 17,000 jobs**[60] and increase electricity prices by, on average, **$100 annually per household** in certain regions.[61]

European policymakers have started adopting a similar playbook. In Germany, the leader of the far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) has threatened to dismantle all wind turbines, calling them a "symbol of shame".[62] In France, the far-right Rassemblement National (RN) has called for a complete halt to the deployment of renewable energy.[63] In the UK, the far-right Reform UK Party has threatened to revoke legally binding Contracts for Difference (CfDs) awarded to offshore wind developers.[64] In each case, those radical positions are backed up by dis- and misinformation claims. For example, in a long, viral X post, the AfD backed Trump's attacks against wind energy, claiming that it was extremely expensive, destroying Germany's economic prosperity and forcing the country's industry to leave. ReformUK Deputy Leader Richard Tice has also repeatedly supported Trump's stance on wind energy. He frames wind energy as a con job and falsely claims wind energy causes higher energy bills. In a YouTube video by the French Rassemblement National (RN), leading party officials portray wind energy as a foreign plot, benefiting a distant elite, while France is being ''invaded'' by wind turbines, risking damages to public health and leading to higher electricity prices.

YouTube video by Marine Le Pen titled "Marine Le Pen will put an end to the invasion of wind turbines''

While the legal scope for implementing such measures is far more limited in the European Union than in the United States - due to strong institutional safeguards such as EU legislation and the EU Court of Justice - populist parties can nevertheless significantly undermine the business case for new wind projects by promoting radical policy agendas that heighten regulatory uncertainty and investment risk.

This is already happening in Europe. Under pressure from anti-wind groups and/or far-right parties, three temporary or permanent bans on wind turbine construction have been introduced at regional level.

Case Study 1:

The Bulgarian municipality of Vetrino became the first in Europe to impose a blanket moratorium on wind energy, effectively blocking the development of the 500 MW Dobrotich onshore wind project, valued at approximately €1.2bn. Opposition to the project was driven by demonstrably false claims, including assertions that wind turbines cause cancer, plague or agricultural collapse. Organised networks on Telegram played a central role in spreading these narratives and mobilising opposition. Supporters coordinated their attendance at a municipal Council session, entered the Council building, and applied direct pressure on Councillors by refusing to leave until the project was rejected, contributing decisively to the collapse of political support for the development. A network surrounding Ivelin Mihaylov played a key role in the moratorium's campaign.[65] Mihaylov is a leading figure in ''Velichie'', a pro-Russian[66] Party. And he is believed to have ties to Russian intelligence services.[67]

His Party was also part of a network of pro-Kremlin actors that lobbied against the passing of a law, providing a legal basis for the construction of offshore wind in Bulgaria. The network has been spreading five key dis- and misinformation narratives, relating to wind energy's alleged impact on the environment, health, economy and geopolitical dynamics. They portrayed wind energy as a scam of foreign powers, aiming to steal Bulgarian resources, causing mass environmental destruction and surging electricity prices. The campaign intensified during key moments of the legislative process, combining coordinated media coverage, public protests and direct political pressure. These efforts culminated in the withdrawal of parliamentary support for the bill, preventing the establishment of a legal framework for offshore wind development.[68]

Case Study 2:

In Austria, the far-right FPÖ Party and anti-wind groups successfully advocated for a public referendum, banning the construction of wind turbines in Alpine areas in Carinthia.[69] The anti-wind campaign platform has amplified false claims suggesting that wind turbines increase power prices, harm grid stability and cause massive microplastic pollution, among other things.[70] Far-right conspiratorial media spread dis- or misinformation about the alleged health impact of wind energy. Citing an alleged case from Greece to support the ban, a news page warned that humans, animals and agriculture would be greatly damaged by wind turbines.[71] The FPÖ claimed that wind turbines are set to be built in Austria's national parks if the ban was rejected, even though this is strictly illegal.[72] Following the referendum, where only 35% of Carinthians cast their vote, and 51.6% voted for the ban, the Carinthian Parliament voted to prohibit wind construction on 99,93% of its territory, moving far beyond the initial mandate of banning construction in Alpine areas. This means almost no additional wind projects can be developed in Carinthia, jeopardising €600m of investments and thousands of jobs.

Case Study 3:

In Sardinia, Italy, the Regional Parliament adopted an 18-month ban on the construction of any renewable power plants which was later deemed illegal by Italy's Constitutional Court.[73] Before the ban expired, the Sardinian Regional Council passed a regional law, defining "suitable" and "unsuitable" areas for the development of renewable energy plants. It defines 99% of Sardinian territory as "unsuitable" for renewables, leading to a de facto ban on wind power[74] which has also been rejected by Italy's Constitutional Court.[75] The Sardinian case also illustrates the role of dis- and misinformation in shaping policy outcomes. The public debate on wind energy was characterised by exaggerated deployment scenarios and unfounded claims about health, environmental and economic impacts, widely amplified through social media and local advocacy platforms.[76] This distorted information environment contributed to the radicalisation of the public discourse and normalised the framing of wind energy as an existential threat.

02. Dis- and misinformation targeting individual projects

Next to dis- and misinformation facilitating radical anti-wind policies, organised anti-wind groups have increasingly used dis- and misinformation to target individual wind projects across Europe. Rather than engaging with efforts to reconcile wind development with local and environmental considerations, these actors frequently pursue project cancellation as a non-negotiable objective.

In practice, these groups rely on two primary strategies to halt or significantly delay projects: mobilising local policymakers to obstruct permitting processes and pursuing sustained litigation warfare. Their campaigns are often underpinned by fringe misinformation narratives, portraying wind turbines as causing severe and irreversible environmental harm. By amplifying fear-laden claims, they exert pressure on local communities and decision-makers alike.

Case Study 1:

CWP Energy has developed plans for the Scoop Hill Wind Farm, a 430 MW wind project in southern Scotland. Following community consultations, CWP scaled back its plans from 75 to 60 turbines due to their impact on cultural heritage, dark skies and golden eagles in the area.[77] CWP planned to provide £2.1m per year to local community funds during the project's 40-year operational life. And ahead of construction, CWP has already invested £20,000 to deliver sports sessions to over 1,700 school children in Dumfries and Galloway, and £10,000 to community transport services.[78]

A local anti-wind group called ''Save our Hills Dumfries and Galloway'' nevertheless mobilised against the project. Among its core claims, the group asserted that wind farms cause permanent and irreversible environmental damage, that sites are never restored once projects cease operation, and that such restoration is neither required nor economically viable. The group also alleged that wind developments would ''kill'' local tourism and employment prospects,[79] despite the absence of evidence supporting a generalised negative tourism impact[80] and wind energy bringing a very positive impact on local employment, with opportunities in construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning. It also warned of adverse effects due to inaudible infrasound.[81] Studies have consistently shown that infrasound from modern wind turbines pose no demonstrated health risk.[82] The campaign against the project was also supported by Scotland Against Spin, a federal anti-wind group, spreading various misinformation claims about wind, such as wind energy not leading to CO_2 reductions.[83] Under pressure from anti-wind groups, the local Dumfries and Galloway Council has objected to the wind project.[84]

Case Study 2:

Galicia, Spain, illustrates how legal warfare is used to block individual wind projects. There, organised opposition groups deliberately pursued sustained litigation campaigns to derail projects after they had already received administrative approvals.[85] By systematically targeting procedural aspects of permitting decisions, opponents sought precautionary suspensions that could halt projects for years, regardless of their ultimate legality. This strategy proved highly effective: overall, lawsuits and administrative appeals affected almost 100 wind projects, worth billions of Euros, with around 2.5 GW of capacity tied up in court proceedings,[86] leading to widespread paralysis of investment and construction. The scale and repetition of these cases point to a professionalised litigation model, supported by specialised legal expertise, which has also generated attractive and stable revenues for law firms active in administrative and environmental litigation. While recent rulings by the EU Court of Justice and Spain's Supreme Court have rolled back some of the key legal arguments used to suspend projects, significant uncertainty remains, and many developments continue to face delays as courts work through the backlog of cases.

03. Dis- and misinformation leading to violent attacks against wind projects

This section examines the most extreme consequences of wind energy dis- and misinformation: violent attacks on wind energy projects.

Radical dis- and misinformation narratives that portray wind and solar projects as illegitimate, corrupt or existential threats can contribute to an escalation from political and legal opposition to physical violence against renewable energy infrastructure and workers. Once such narratives take hold, sabotage and intimidation are increasingly framed as justified forms of resistance rather than criminal acts. In several European regions, sustained misinformation campaigns have coincided with a shift towards vandalism, arson attacks and deliberate endangerment at renewable energy construction sites, targeting both equipment and personnel.

Case Study 1:

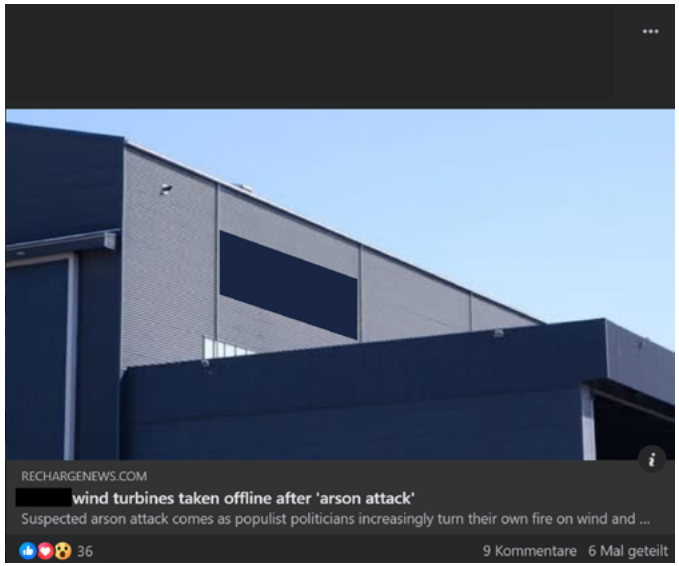
The Sardinian case, described above, illustrates this escalation particularly clearly. Multiple violent incidents have been recorded against wind and solar projects on the island. In one case, unknown perpetrators unscrewed the bolts fixing a wind turbine to its base, leaving the structure in a dangerously unstable condition and creating a serious risk of collapse. The sabotage was discovered only by chance during routine maintenance. In another incident, protective sheets covering wind turbines under construction were allegedly set on fire, causing damage to equipment and worksites.[87] Similar attacks have targeted solar energy projects: in Viddalba (Sassari), a suspected arson attack destroyed more than 5,000 photovoltaic panels at a solar park under construction, while a year earlier around 2,000 panels were deliberately burned in a separate incident in Tuili.[88]

This escalation does not occur in isolation. Across cases, social media plays a critical enabling role by sustaining grievance narratives, coordinating mobilisation and lowering the threshold between opposition and direct action. A further example, this time from northern Italy, shows how online radicalisation and mobilisation may have translated into organised violence on the ground.

Case Study 2:

In Mugello, Tuscany, around 50 masked individuals, some armed with knives, stormed a wind farm construction site, threatened engineers and workers, forced them to leave, and vandalised machinery and infrastructure in a coordinated act of sabotage.[89] The attack was preceded by sustained online activity on Telegram and Facebook that mirrored developments on the ground. A Telegram channel circulated calls for participation in a protest camp, scheduled to take place between 2 and 6 July 2025, coinciding with the period of the attack.[90] These messages were amplified via activist websites and alternative media and accompanied by manifesto-style texts framing the wind project as an act of "violence" or "war" against the territory and calling for its "disarming". At the same time, Facebook discussions around the project were dominated by hostile narratives portraying the wind farm as illegitimate, environmentally destructive and imposed through corruption, alongside repeated calls to mobilise physically through assemblies, marches and presence on the ground. Following the attack, a subset of social-media comments explicitly justified or expressed support for acts of sabotage, presenting them as a response to the perceived failure of institutional and legal channels.

Beyond the two cases highlighted above, several other incidents illustrate that such attacks are not isolated. Arson attacks on wind energy infrastructure have been reported in Ramillies, Belgium,[91] in County Down, Northern Ireland[92] and in Marsanne (Drôme), France.[93] In Tenerife, Spain, authorities arrested a suspect responsible for dozens of acts of sabotage against wind and solar installations, allegedly using homemade explosive and incendiary devices.[94] In Austria, a wind project was also targeted by vandalism that damaged machinery and equipment.[95]



Facebook users in a Scottish anti-wind Facebook group, reacting with "like" and "heart" emojis to a wind turbine arson attack in France.

In the Dutch provinces of Groningen and Drenthe, opposition to wind projects escalated into systematic intimidation. Pro-wind politicians and stakeholders were targeted with Nazi posters displayed in public spaces, while dozens of companies, individual employees and farmers received direct threats, including warnings that staff safety could not be guaranteed.[96] Farmers who wanted to host wind projects on their land were directly attacked: one farmer had his barn burned down, another saw straw bales set on fire, and metal objects, chains and concrete-filled cans were deliberately placed in fields to damage agricultural machinery.[97] The severity of the situation led the Dutch counter-terrorism unit (NCTV) to formally warn that parts of the anti-wind protest movement had become radicalised.[98]

William Moorlag, former Dutch MP, depicted as Nazi with the text 'The executioner of Meeden' (photo: Haan/ANP)

4

Recommendations

Recommendations

Dis- and misinformation on wind energy have moved far beyond a communications challenge. They have become a systemic risk to Europe's security, competitiveness and ability to act. Coordinated false narratives distort public debate, undermine political decision-making, delay investment and weaken Europe's industrial base at a moment when energy security and affordable power are paramount. Worse, they lead to real-life attacks and crimes.

Addressing this challenge is urgent – and it requires action across politics, media, education and the digital sphere. European policymakers should:

Ensure social media platforms contain dis- and misinformation.

Social media has become the primary arena where dis- and misinformation spreads at scale, with growing implications for Europe's democratic resilience and security. The European Commission and Member States should therefore treat this challenge as an urgent security priority and step up coordinated action to ensure online information environments support fact-based debates on issues of public interest such as energy security. Building on recent initiatives and debates on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), the Commission should intensify its work to uncover where disinformation is produced as a tool of foreign interference targeting wind energy, and coordinate amongst member states to disrupt this activity when found.[99]

Act on the public mandate.

88% of EU citizens say it is important for the EU to take action to increase renewable energy, giving policymakers a clear mandate to deliver.[100] At a time of overlapping energy, competitiveness and climate crises, this moment calls for leadership, clarity and scale – not hesitation. Acting decisively will unlock investment, reduce costs and reinforce public support as Europeans see the tangible benefits of a more secure and resilient energy system.

Invest in media and digital literacy from an early age.

Strengthening citizens' ability to recognise manipulation and misinformation is essential to building long term resilience. The EU's Digital Education Action Plan (2021–2027) sets out a strong framework for integrating digital and media literacy into school education, including teaching pupils how digital information environments work and how to distinguish reliable information from misleading or manipulative content.[101] We call on Member States to systematically implement this guidance in national education systems. The wind industry supports stronger education on energy, climate and media literacy across Europe and already contributes to initiatives that help young people understand how the energy system functions.[102]

Endnotes

1 European Commission: Statement by President von der Leyen on the impact of the situation in the Middle East on the European Union: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_26_800

2 Brown University: Letting Europe's Energy Crisis Go to Waste: The Ukraine War's Massive Fossil Fuel Costs Fail to Accelerate Renewables: https://home.watson.brown.edu/sites/default/files/Research/Research%20Briefs/2023/WI_Europe_s%20Energy%20Crisis_MP-3574_Final%20%281%29.pdf

3 WindEurope: A renewables-based energy system will save Europe €1.6 trillion: https://windeurope.org/news/a-renewables-based-energy-system-will-save-europe-1-6-trillion/

4 WindEurope/Rystad: Our wind, our value: https://windeurope.org/data/products/our-wind-our-value/ (p.5)

5 European Union: SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER 565: Climate Change: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3472

6 WindEurope: A renewables-based energy system will save Europe €1.6 trillion: https://windeurope.org/news/a-renewables-based-energy-system-will-save-europe-1-6-trillion/

7 Journal of Industrial and Business Economics: Energy vulnerability and resilience in the EU: concepts, empirics and policy: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40812-025-00340-9#Sec8
Chatham House: Assessment of the Energy Security of EU Countries in Light of the Expansion of Renewable Energy Sources: https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/2026-01-27-eu-energy-security-aylett-et-al.pdf

8 European Union: Eurobarometer Social Media Survey 2025: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3592 (p.28)

9 European Union: SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER 565: Climate Change: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3472

10 E.ON Foundation: European Survey 2025: Einstellungen zur Energiewende in Europa: https://www.eon-foundation.com/de/insights/european-survey-2025.html (p. 10)

11 Climate Scorecard: The Need to Address Disinformation and Prioritize a Just Transition in the European Union: https://www.climatescorecard.org/2025/01/the-need-to-address-disinformation-and-prioritize-a-just-transition-in-the-european-union/

12 CAAD: Extreme Weather, Extreme Content: How Big Tech Enables Climate Disinformation in a World on the Brink: https://caad.info/analysis/reports/extreme-weather-extreme-content/
Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung: How not to talk about a blackout: https://eu.boell.org/en/2026/02/18/how-not-talk-about-blackout

13 Euro News: EU governments discuss action on disinformation over climate policy: https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/04/29/eu-governments-discuss-action-on-disinformation-over-climate-policy
GMK Center: Major pause in EU steel industry decarbonization projects: https://gmk.center/en/posts/major-pause-in-eu-steel-industry-decarbonization-projects/

14 Ipsos: Public attitudes to the Climate Crisis and the transition to Net Zero: https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2025-04/People%26amp%3BClimateChange2025.pdf

15 IEA: How much money are European consumers saving thanks to renewables? https://www.iea.org/reports/renewable-energy-market-update-june-2023/how-much-money-are-european-consumers-saving-thanks-to-renewables

16 Ipsos: Public attitudes to the Climate Crisis and the transition to Net Zero: https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2025-04/People%26amp%3BClimateChange2025.pdf

17 Environmental Science and Pollution Research: Life cycle assessment of electric vehicles: a systematic review of literature: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11356-023-30999-3

18 Civey: Denken Sie, die Energiewende schadet dem Industriestandort Deutschland? https://www.eon-foundation.com/de/insights/european-survey-2025.html

19 E.ON Foundation: European Survey 2025: Einstellungen zur Energiewende in Europa: https://www.eon-foundation.com/de/insights/european-survey-2025.html

20 WindEurope: A renewables-based energy system will save Europe €1.6 trillion: https://windeurope.org/news/a-renewables-based-energy-system-will-save-europe-1-6-trillion/

21 European Union: Eurobarometer Social Media Survey 2025: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3592 (p.35)

22 European Union: SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER 565: Climate Change: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3472

23 Euronews: Europeans see wars and disinformation as top concerns, Eurobarometer survey finds: https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/02/04/europeans-see-wars-and-disinformation-as-top-concerns-eurobarometer-survey-finds

24 European Council: Disinformation and democratic resilience: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/disinformation-and-democratic-resilience/

25 For a comprehensive overview of academic and expert sources on wind dis- and misinformation claims visit: https://windeurope.org/about-wind/dis-and-mis-information/

26 EU Wind: https://euwind.org/

27 Teknisk Ukeblad Media: Betydelig medlemsvekst for Motvind Norge: https://www.tu.no/artikler/betydelig-medlemsvekst-for-motvind-norge/554783
Wikipedia: Motvind Norge: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motvind_Norge

28 Motvind Norge: Vindkraftverk og helseplager: https://motvind.no/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Brev-til-kommunene-fra-Folkehelse-i-Motvind-15.01.2023.pdf
Europower: The strategy is to be lightning fast with resistance - this is how Motvind Norway works: https://www.europower.no/vindkraft/strategien-er-a-vare-lynrask-med-motstand-slik-jobber-motvind-norge/2-1-1625741

29 Motvind Norge: Nordisk vindmotstand: Vindkraftstøy er undervurdert helsefare: https://www.motvind.org/post/nordisk-vindmotstand-vindkraftst%C3%B8y-er-undervurdert-helsefare
Motvind Norge: Tettpakket og tankevekkende: To viktige fagmøter om infralyd, støy og helse: https://www.motvind.org/post/tettpakket-og-tankevekkende-to-viktige-fagm%C3%B8ter-om-infralyd-st%C3%B8y-og-helse

30 Frontiers: Wind Turbines and Human Health: https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/public-health/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2014.00063/full
Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt: Windenergieanlagen, Infraschall und Gesundheit: https://www.lfu.bayern.de/buerger/doc/uw_117_windkraftanlagen_infraschall_gesundheit.pdf
Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine: Wind Turbines and Health A Critical Review of the Scientific Literature: https://journals.lww.com/joem/Fulltext/2014/11000/Wind_Turbines_and_Health__A_Critical_Review_of_the.9.aspx

31 Europower: The strategy is to be lightning fast with resistance - this is how Motvind Norway works: https://www.europower.no/vindkraft/strategien-er-a-vare-lynrask-med-motstand-slik-jobber-motvind-norge/2-1-1625741
Wikipedia: Motvind Norge: https://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motvind_Norge

32 Steigan.no: Hva koster vindkraft på land – egentlig? https://steigan.no/2026/02/hva-koster-vindkraft-pa-land-egentlig/
Derimot.no: Norgespris for strøm er en kvasiløsning. https://derimot.no/nar-medisinen-ikke-er-tilpasset-sykdommen-norgespris-for-strom-er-en-kvasilosning/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
Steigan.no: Kampen om vindkraft er ikke over, Vindr vil sette opp monstermaster i Marker : https://steigan.no/2025/10/kampen-om-vindkraft-er-ikke-over-vindr-vil-sette-opp-monstermaster-i-marker/

33 Bellona: Bellona founder calls out anti-wind energy activist's Russian propaganda: https://bellona.org/news/carbon-accounting/2025-01-motvind-in-the-comments

34 Il Giornale: Infrastruttura verde e transizione flop: così l'energia verde ha spento l'Europa: https://www.ilgiornale.it/news/cronache/sistema-vulnerabile-che-non-riparte-autonomia-2472596.html

35 ENTSO-E: ENTSO-E Publishes Expert Panel Final Report on 28 April 2025 Blackout in Spain and Portugal: https://www.entsoe.eu/news/2026/03/20/entso-e-publishes-expert-panel-final-report-on-28-april-2025-blackout-in-spain-and-portugal/

36 The Telegraph: Wind farms push up household energy bills by £70: https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2026/03/06/wind-farms-push-up-household-energy-bills-by-70/

37 NZZ: Explodierende Strom- und Gaspreise: Die Energiewende treibt Deutschland in die Deindustrialisierung: https://www.nzz.ch/wirtschaft/die-energiewende-treibt-deutschland-in-die-deindustrialisierung-ld.1909589

38 OME: L'OME publie son Bilan de l'année 2025: https://observatoiremediaecologie.fr/publication/lome-publie-son-bilan-de-lannee-2025/
QuotaClimat: Mapping climate disinformation in French and Brazilian mainstream media: https://quotaclimat.org/app/uploads/2025/10/Mapping-climate-disinformation-France-Brazil-medias-october-2025.pdf (p.9)

39 For a comprehensive overview of academic and expert sources on wind dis- and misinformation claims visit: https://windeurope.org/about-wind/dis-and-mis-information/

40 WindEurope: A renewables-based energy system will save Europe €1.6 trillion: https://windeurope.org/news/a-renewables-based-energy-system-will-save-europe-1-6-trillion/

41 EE Power: How Do Renewables Affect Grid Reliability? https://eepower.com/tech-insights/how-do-renewables-affect-grid-reliability/
Agora Energiewende: Power system stability: https://www.agora-energiewende.org/fileadmin/Projekte/2023/2023-32_EU_System_stability/2023-32_EU_Power_System_Stability_V1..pdf
NREL: Maintaining Grid Reliability – Lessons from Renewable Integration Studies: https://docs.nrel.gov/docs/fy24osti/89166.pdf

42 El Pais: Emmanuel Macron: 'The strategy of bowing down to the US doesn't work': https://english.elpais.com/international/2026-02-10/emmanuel-macron-the-strategy-of-bowing-down-to-the-us-doesnt-work.html

43 ENTSO-E: ENTSO-E Publishes Expert Panel Final Report on 28 April 2025 Blackout in Spain and Portugal: https://www.entsoe.eu/news/2026/03/20/entso-e-publishes-expert-panel-final-report-on-28-april-2025-blackout-in-spain-and-portugal/
WindEurope: Iberian Blackout: ENTSO-E report puts spotlight on grid resilience and voltage control – not on renewables: https://windeurope.org/news/iberian-blackout-entso-e-report-puts-spotlight-on-grid-resilience-and-voltage-control-not-on-renewables/

44 Dagens Nyheter: Ebba Buschs "vansinne" en snackis på kontinenten: https://www.dn.se/varlden/ebba-buschs-vansinne-en-snackis-pa-kontinenten/

45 NATO: Climate Change and Security Impact Assessment: Third Edition 2024: https://www.nato.int/content/dam/nato/legacy-wcm/media_pdf/2024/7/pdf/240709-Climate-Security-Impact.pdf (p.27)

46 European Union Institute for Security Studies: Fuel, fear and falsehoods: Defending Europe and Ukraine from Russia's hybrid energy war: https://www.iss.europa.eu/publications/commentary/fuel-fear-and-falsehoods-defending-europe-and-ukraine-russias-hybrid-energy
Business and Human Rights Centre: EU spends more on Russian oil & gas than financial aid to Ukraine, according to new report: https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/eu-spends-more-on-russian-oil-gas-than-financial-aid-to-ukraine-according-to-new-report/
RazomWeStand: Russian Disinformation and Europe's Renewable Energy Transition: A Battle for the Future: https://razomwestand.com/russian-disinformation-and-europes-renewable-energy-transition-a-battle-for-the-future/

47 Commission for the study of Russian and Belarusian influence on internal security and interests of the Republic of Poland: Disinformation Task Force Report: https://www.gov.pl/web/sprawiedliwosc/raport zespolu-ds-dezinformacji-komisji-ds-badania-wplywow-rosyjskich-i-bialoruskich
Euro News: EU governments discuss action on disinformation over climate policy: https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/04/29/eu-governments-discuss-action-on-disinformation-over-climate-policy

48 Climate and Development Lab: Against the Wind: A Map of the Anti-Offshore Wind Network in the Eastern United States: https://www.climatedevlab.brown.edu/post/against-the-wind-a-map-of-the-anti-offshore-wind-network-in-the-eastern-united-states

49 Climate and Development Lab: Against the Wind: A Map of the Anti-Offshore Wind Network in the Eastern United States: https://www.climatedevlab.brown.edu/post/against-the-wind-a-map-of-the-anti-offshore-wind-network-in-the-eastern-united-states

50 Science: Misinformation exploits outrage to spread online: https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adl2829
Pnas Nexus: Engagement, user satisfaction, and the amplification of divisive content on social media: https://academic.oup.com/pnasnexus/article/4/3/pgaf062/8052060
HAI Stanford University: The Data Behind Your Doom Scroll: How Negative News Takes Over Your Feed: https://hai.stanford.edu/news/the-data-behind-your-doom-scroll-how-negative-news-takes-over-your-feed

51 The Bright Initiative by Bright Data. https://brightinitiative.com/

52 Umweltbundesamt: Aktualisierung und Bewertung von Ökobilanzen: https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/system/files/medien/5750/publikationen/2021-05-06_cc_35-2021_oekobilanzen_windenergie_photovoltaik.pdf WindEurope: Get all the facts on wind energy dis- and misinformation claims: https://windeurope.org/about-wind/dis-and-mis-information/

53 Political Psychology: Conspiracy Theories and Institutional Trust: Examining the Role of Uncertainty Avoidance and Active Social Media Use: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/pops.12754 Political Psychology: Understanding Conspiracy Theories: https://www.jstor.org/stable/45174637

54 Country shares reflect the volume of anti-wind content captured in the dataset and may partly reflect differences in the number of accounts identified and included for each country.

55 Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: COVID-19 Vaccine Misinformation and Disinformation Costs an Estimated $50 to $300 Million Each Day: https://centerforhealthsecurity.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/20211020-misinformation-disinformation-cost.pdf

56 Nature Energy: Mapping, understanding and reducing belief in misinformation about electric vehicles: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41560-025-01790-0

57 International Journal of Data Science and Analytics: COVID-19 and 5G conspiracy theories: long term observation of a digital wildfire: https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s41060-022-00322-3.pdf; Frontiers in Communications and Networks: 5G and EMF Exposure: Misinformation, Open Questions, and Potential Solutions: https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/communications-and-networks/articles/10.3389/frcmn.2021.635716/full#share

58 FactCheck: Trump Misleads on Climate Change and Renewables at U.N. https://www.factcheck.org/2025/09/trump-misleads-on-climate-change-and-renewables-at-u-n/; Deutsche Welle: Fact check: Debunking Trump's false claims on wind energy: https://www.dw.com/en/fact-check-debunking-trumps-false-claims-on-wind-energy/a-72824310; The Guardian: Tilting at windmills? Trump's claims about turbines fact-checked: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jul/28/are-trump-claims-about-wind-power-correct

59 E&E News by Politico: Offshore wind stalls as Trump's hostility deepens: https://www.eenews.net/articles/offshore-wind-stalls-as-trumps-hostility-deepens/

60 Center for American Progress: RELEASE: More than 17,000 Jobs Threatened by Trump Administration Cuts to Wind Power: https://www.americanprogress.org/press/release-more-than-17000-jobs-threatened-by-trump-administration-cuts-to-wind-power/

61 Center for American Progress: The Trump Administration's Attack on Offshore Wind Threatens To Raise Electricity Prices for Millions of Americans: https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-trump-administrations-attack-on-offshore-wind-threatens-to-raise-electricity-prices-for-millions-of-americans/

62 Deutschlandfunk: „Wir reißen alle Windräder nieder" – AfD wirbt für Ende der bisherigen Klimapolitik: https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/wir-reissen-alle-windraeder-nieder-afd-wirbt-fuer-ende-der-bisherigen-klimapolitik-100.html

63 PV Magazine: French parliament rejects proposal for moratorium on solar, wind: https://www.pv-magazine.com/2025/06/24/french-parliament-rejects-proposal-for-moratorium-on-solar-and-wind/

64 The Guardian: Reform's anti-renewables stance 'putting jobs and energy bills at risk': https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jul/17/reforms-anti-renewables-stance-putting-jobs-and-energy-bills-at-risk

65 Kapital: Why is Historical Park suspending a wind project worth 1.2 billion euros? BGN. https://www.capital.bg/biznes/kompanii/2022/08/12/4378181_chuma_ot_viaturna_energiia_zashto_istoricheski_park/

66 Euractiv: New far-right pro-Russian party enters Bulgarian parliament, at odds with similar parties: https://www.euractiv.com/news/new-far-right-pro-russian-party-enters-bulgarian-parliament-at-odds-with-similar-parties/

67 Kapital Insights: The Historical Park inquiry: a 70 million levs scam and links to Russian intelligence: https://kinsights.capital.bg/politics_and_society/2024/08/14/4663321_the_historical_park_inquiry_a_70_million_levs_scam_and/

68 Center for the Study of Democracy: The Kremlin Playbook against Offshore Wind Energy in Bulgaria: https://csd.eu/publications/publication/the-kremlin-playbook-against-offshore-wind-energy-in-bulgaria/

69 Renewables Now: Referendum in Austrian province supports ban on wind power: https://renewablesnow.com/news/referendum-in-austrian-province-supports-ban-on-wind-power-1269410/

70 YouTube/Dr. Martin J. F. Steiner: Gegenwind In Kärnten Vortrag Teil3 Windenergie erzeugt massive Umweltschäden!

71 Tkp: Zum Kärntner Windpark Referendum: Erfahrungen in Kreta mit Windrädern auf Bergen: https://tkp.at/2025/01/10/zum-kaerntner-windpark-referendum-erfahrungen-in-kreta-mit-windraedern-auf-bergen/

72 Profil: Nein, Windparks dürfen in Kärntner Nationalparks nicht gebaut werden: https://www.profil.at/faktiv/nein-windparks-duerfen-in-kaerntner-nationalparks-nicht-gebaut-werden/402997031

73 Tplex: Renewable moratorium in Sardinia: Constitutional Court confirms primacy of state law and opens new front on regional law on suitable areas. https://www.tplex.eu/en/news/renewable-moratorium-in-sardinia-constitutional-court-confirms-primacy-of-state-law-and-opens-new-front-on-regional-law-on-suitable-areas

74 Ilsole24ore: Renewables, Sardinia's eligible areas are 1% by law: what happens now: https://en.ilsole24ore.com/art/renewable-sardinia-eligible-areas-are-1-per-cent-law-what-happens-now-AGzFrcYB

75 L'Unione Sarda: La Corte costituzionale boccia la legge sarda sulle aree idonee: https://www.unionesarda.it/news-sardegna/la-corte-costituzionale-boccia-la-legge-sarda-sulle-aree-idonee-m6ndpe7a

76 Observatorio di Pavia: Il campione di analisi: https://www.greenpeace.org/static/planet4-italy-stateless/2025/02/6e388e6f-eolico-in-sardegna.pdf Maurizio Pittau: The Battle Over Wind Energy in Sardinia: https://www.mauriziopittau.it/blog/the-battle-over-wind-energy-in-sardinia/ L'Unione Sarda: "Wind assault in over 200 Sardinian municipalities, an unacceptable enormity": https://www.unionesarda.it/news-sardegna/assalto-eolico-in-oltre-200-comuni-sardi-enormita-inaccettabile-xjqsz3l4 YouTube/Red TV Ronnie: ALLARME SARDEGNA: pale eoliche distruggeranno ecosistema e panorama Avv. Linda Corrias lo denuncia

77 BBC: Moffat wind farm project opposed by councillors: https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c884xmg57m4o 80 CWP Energy: Scoop Hill Wind Farm: https://cwpenergy.uk/project/scoop-hill-wind-farm/

78 Save our Hills Dumfries and Galloway: CONCERNS: https://www.saveourhillsdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk/concerns/

79 Scottish Government: Economic impacts of wind farms on Scottish tourism. https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/research-and-analysis/2008/03/economic-research-findings-economic-impacts-wind-farms-scottish-tourism/documents/0057315-pdf/0057315-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/0057315.pdf RenewableUK: Do wind farms impact tourism? https://www.renewableuk.com/news-and-resources/blog/do-wind-farms-impact-tourism/ The University of Rhode Island: How Are Tourists Affected By Offshore Wind Turbines? A Case Study Of The First U.S. Offshore Wind Farm. https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1104&context=enre_facpubs Landry et al.: Offshore Wind Turbines and Coastal Recreation Demand: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228319783_Offshore_Wind_Turbines_and_Coastal_Recreation_Demand

80 WindEurope: Europe's Wind Energy Workforce Report: https://windeurope.org/data/products/europes-wind-energy-workforce-report/

81 National Library of Medicine: Health Effects Related to Wind Turbine Sound: An Update: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34501721/ Health Canada: Wind Turbine Noise and Health Study: Summary of Results: https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-risks-safety/radiation/everyday-things-emit-radiation/wind-turbine-noise/wind-turbine-noise-health-study-summary-results.html German Environment Agency: Infrasound from wind turbines: https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/system/files/medien/4031/publikationen/umid_01-2021-infraschall.pdf

82 Scotland against Spin: FAQs: https://scotlandagainstspin.org/wind-energy-faqs/

83 BBC: Moffat wind farm project opposed by councillors: https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c884xmg57m4o

84 Reuters: How a storm of lawsuits paralysed wind mills in northwest Spain: https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/how-storm-lawsuits-paralysed-wind-mills-northwest-spain-2025-01-14/

85 Reuters: EU court rules against environmentalists trying to block Spanish wind farms: https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/eu-court-rules-against-environmentalists-trying-block-spanish-wind-farms-2025-08-01/

86 L'Indipendente: Attacks against wind farms multiply in Sardinia: https://www.lindipendente.online/2024/09/02/in-sardegna-si-moltiplicano-gli-attacchi-contro-i-cantieri-eolici/

87 Green Report: Dal Mugello alla Sardegna: cronaca di un'escalation contro le rinnovabili: https://www.greenreport.it/news/nuove-energie/60541-dal-mugello-alla-sardegna-cronaca-di-unescalation-contro-le-rinnovabili

88 Florence Daily News: Violent Raid at Mugello Wind Farm Site in Tuscany: https://www.florencedailynews.com/2025/07/10/violent-raid-at-mugello-wind-farm-site-in-tuscany/

89 Green Report: Il terrorismo contro l'eolico in Mugello, spiegato da chi l'ha affrontato: https://www.greenreport.it/news/interviste/56728-il-terrorismo-contro-leolico-in-mugello-spiegato-da-chi-lha-affrontato

90 RTBF: Incendie volontaire sur un chantier éolien à Ramillies: https://www.rtbf.be/article/incendie-volontaire-sur-un-chantier-eolien-a-ramillies-10667004

91 Wind Power Monthly: Wind turbine destroyed in arson attack in Northern Ireland: https://www.windpowermonthly.com/article/1936613/wind-turbine-destroyed-arson-attack-northern-ireland

92 Aria: Incendies criminels dans un parc éolien: https://www.aria.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/accident/51675/

93 Renewables Now: Man arrested for sabotaging wind, solar farms in Spain's Tenerife island: https://renewablesnow.com/news/man-arrested-for-sabotaging-wind-solar-farms-in-spains-tenerife-island-1267802/

94 Kronen Zeitung: Sabotage: Windmast am Lehmberg umgekippt: https://www.krone.at/3369346

95 RTV Noord: Asbest, hakenkruizen en bedreigingen: zo ver gaat het verzet tegen windmolens: https://www.rtvnoord.nl/nieuws/197489/asbest-hakenkruizen-en-bedreigingen-zo-ver-gaat-het-verzet-tegen-windmolens RTV Noord: Betrokkenen windparken krijgen dreigbrief: 'Wij staan niet in voor de veiligheid van uw personeel': https://www.rtvnoord.nl/nieuws/196598/betrokkenen-windparken-krijgen-dreigbrief-wij-staan-niet-in-voor-de-veiligheid-van-uw-personeel

96 NRC: Begin in het noorden niet over windmolens: https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2018/07/27/begin-in-het-noorden-niet-over-windmolens-a1611448

97 Dutch News: Some wind farm protesters are radicalised, says counter terrorism unit: https://www.dutchnews.nl/2018/09/some-wind-farm-protesters-are-radicalised-says-counter-terrorism-unit/

98 NRC: Begin in het noorden niet over windmolens: https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2018/07/27/begin-in-het-noorden-niet-over-windmolens-a1611448

99 EEAS: 4th EEAS Annual Report on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference Threats: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/4th-eeas-annual-report-foreign-information-manipulation-and-interference-threats_en

100 European Union: SPECIAL EUROBAROMETER 565: Climate Change: https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3472

101 European Commission: Guidelines for teachers to foster digital literacy and tackle disinformation: https://education.ec.europa.eu/focus-topics/digital-education/actions/plan/guidelines-for-teachers-to-foster-digital-literacy-and-tackle-disinformation

102 WindEurope: The wind industry's commitment to STEM education: https://windeurope.org/data/products/the-wind-industry-s-commitment-to-stem-education/