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## Article from The Times UK re corruption in the wind industry

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10. augusta 2010 13:57

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Hello

I write from the the mountainous region of Scotland's Border Country, on the border with England.

We recently got our Planning system to refuse Planning Permission for an 8 turbine power station, because the landscape could not accommodate the visual impact, but it was a hard and long fight. But now - not much further away higher in the mountains - we are facing an application for 29 turbines, so we have another fight.

Good Luck with your fight. My advice is that you have to set emotion aside and fight the developers hard on the legal detail. It is likely to be long - 2-5 years usually in Scotland.

There is a website which lists the efficiencies of all operating windfarms in Britain, and this shows that almost all are less than 50% efficient (i.e produce less than 50% of their annual theoretical maximum capacity) and most are less than 30% efficient. This makes the electricity they produce very expensive, as well as being intermittent and so still requiring back up from fossil fuel power stations. The website is <http://www.ref.org.uk/index.php/uk-renewable-energy-data>. REF is a good organisation for technical advice, and has a very realistic view on the value of wind.

Tell your mayors and village deputies that for this reason all over Europe intelligent people are opposed to wind power stations in the wrong places.

Wind power will make a contribution to future power generation strategies but it will not provide base load (i.e. the power requirement that is still there when the wind is not blowing) and, no matter what the pro-wind movement says, it will not stop global warming. So the value of wind's present and future contribution depends on maximising efficiency in providing power when we need it, and this depends on choosing optimum sites where the wind load factor is highest. But if the site is not optimum, their value is much reduced and will not outweigh the adverse impacts and effects.

Here is an article about corruption in the wind industry from yesterdays' the Times

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## Organised crime infiltrates EU wind industry

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**Organised groups linked to the Italian Mafia are among those to have infiltrated the industry, Jason Wright, senior director of Kroll's consulting group, told The Times**

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Fraile/Reuters

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**Robin Pagnamenta**

Last updated August 9 2010 12:01AM

Europe's booming wind energy industry is being exploited by criminals who see the opportunity to tap into billions of euros' worth of European Union subsidies, according to Kroll, the corporate investigations and security group.

Organised groups linked to the Italian Mafia are among those to have infiltrated the industry, Jason Wright, senior director of Kroll's consulting group, told *The Times*.

While emphasising that the overwhelming majority of European wind projects were "entirely legitimate", he said that criminals were increasingly investing in the industry, both to qualify for subsidies and to launder profits from drug-running and other illegal activities.

Kroll, he added, was doing brisk business conducting due diligence on renewable energy projects on behalf of big banks and other potential

investors.

The American-owned Kroll has detected a sharp increase since 2007 in the number of cases involving fraud and corruption in the wind energy sector — chiefly in Italy and Spain but also in Bulgaria, Romania and other parts of Central and Eastern Europe.

“Renewable energy is completely dependent on subsidies, so it is clearly an area for corruption,” Mr Wright said. “Wind farms are a profitable way to make money because of the subsidies, and they are also a great way of laundering it.”

He added that the wind energy industry was vulnerable because projects frequently hinged on the political patronage of local officials who grant licences and access to public land. With more than €6 billion (£5 billion) of EU subsidies having been earmarked for renewable energy projects over a 13-year period ending in 2013, Mr Wright said that the industry’s growth in Italy had been much faster in Sicily and the south of the country than in the north — a reflection of the ease with which developers can secure licences.

Eight people in the Trapani area of western Sicily, as well as in Salerno in the southwest of the mainland, were arrested last year after an investigation by anti-Mafia magistrates into a string of wind projects.

Police in Trapani said that officials had been given bribes and luxury cars to encourage the town to invest in wind farms worth hundreds of millions of euros.

In another case, in Spain’s Canary Islands, five local officials, a mayor and two developers were accused of bribery and misappropriation of land. Another case in Corsica involved the skimming of more than

11. 8. 2010

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€1.5 million worth of EU subsidies for wind energy projects.

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with best Regards

Alan Bailey

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