

EUROPEAN COUNSEL SETS EASING RULES FOR RENEWABLES' LICENSING

The European Union has established today, temporary rules to speed up the deployment of renewable energy power plants.

The [European Regulation](#) published yesterday, lays down temporary emergency rules to speed up the licensing procedure for renewable energy plants.

Under this Regulation, the planning, construction, operation and grid connection of renewable energy plants and installations deemed to be of overriding public interest and Member States must ensure that they have priority in the licensing procedures.

To speed up licensing procedures it establishes:

- A maximum period of 3 months for procedures relating to the installation of solar energy equipment and collocated energy storage assets (including solar installations integrated into buildings or on building roofs), provided that the main purpose of these structures is not solar energy production;
- An exemption of these projects from the obligation of environmental impact evaluation;
- That the licence for installation by self-consumers of solar energy equipment not exceeding 50 kW is deemed to be approved if the competent authority does not reply to the licence application within 1 month;
- A maximum period of 6 months for procedures relating to the repowering of projects;
- A maximum period of 3 months for procedures relating to the repowering of projects, where the repowering does not result in an increase of more than 15 % in the plant's capacity and does not affect the need to evaluate potential environmental impacts;
- A maximum period of 1 month for procedures relating to the installation of heat pumps not exceeding 50 MW or 3 months in the case of geothermal heat pumps;
- That that grid connections of heat pumps with a capacity not exceeding 12 kW and those installed by self-consumers not exceeding 50 kW must be authorised by the competent authority upon notification, provided that the capacity of the installed self-consumer is at least 60 % of the capacity of the heat pump.

This temporary framework enters into force today, on 30 December 2022 and applies to licensing procedures starting until 30 June 2024.

The European Commission will review this Regulation by the end of 2023, with a view to a possible extension of its period of validity.

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