



## EASE Short Briefing on Emergency Commission Proposal: "Laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy"

14 November 2022

**Background:** On 9 November 2022, the Commission released a [proposal](#) for a Council Regulation. It aims to accelerate the permitting of renewable energy systems based on the goals set out in the European Green Deal to place renewable energy at the core of the clean energy transition within the context of the war in Ukraine and very high energy prices. The REPowerEU plan, adopted by the Commission in May 2022, includes more ambitious renewable energy targets, measures to increase the deployment of solar installations on buildings, and measures to simplify and harmonise the administrative permit-granting procedures for renewable energy projects across the EU. In October 2022, the European Council called for the fast-tracking of simplifying permitting procedures for renewables and grids, including via emergency measures. Thus, while the Council and European Parliament work towards the adoption of long-term legislation, the Commission has proposed temporary emergency measure to respond to the immediate need of accelerating the permitting of renewable energy deployment.

**Key Aspects of Proposal:** The proposal is an emergency measure with an expiration date of one year after the date of its adoption. All permits granted within this measure will be made publicly available.

- 1. Renewables are in the overriding public interest:** As already proposed in the REPowerEU chapters of RED, the measure stipulates in Article 2(1) that the construction and operation of renewable energy systems, their grid connection, the grid itself, and *storage assets* are presumed be in the overriding public interest which serve public health and safety. This 'overriding public interest' only applies to new permitting processes which start after the application of the proposal.
- 2. Accelerated permitting for repowering projects:** The permit-granting process for repowering and upgrading of assets for existing renewable energy powerplants shall not exceed six months, including environmental assessments where they are required. Furthermore, repowering projects which increase renewable capacity less than 15% should be permitted within one month, unless there is a justified safety concern or technical incompatibility.



3. **Accelerated permitting for solar energy installations:** The permit-granting process for solar energy equipment and *co-located energy storage assets* on buildings (“provided that the primary aim of such structures is not solar energy production”, Art. 3 of the Proposal) will not exceed one month. Furthermore, for solar energy systems with a capacity under 50 kW, if the permitting authority does not respond within that one-month deadline then the permit can be considered granted by default.
4. **Accelerated permitting of heat pump installations:** The permit-granting process for the installation of heat pumps would not exceed three months. The transmission and distribution grid connections should be permitted just through notification to relevant entities for heat pumps up to a 12kW capacity and heat pumps with up to a 50kW capacity for renewable self-consumers whose renewable electricity generation amounts to at least 60% of the heat pump’s capacity.

**Relevance for Energy Storage:** This emergency measure could greatly increase the potential speed and volume of deployments of co-located solar PV and energy storage installations on buildings in the EU. Permitting complexity and laggard approval timeframes is a frequent issue faced by energy storage stakeholders and this proposal will greatly accelerate and simplify the permit-granting process, especially for smaller installation below 50 kW who will not need to wait for regulatory authorities who lack resources to respond within a month. Energy storage has massive potential to contribute in addressing the current energy crisis prompted by the war in Ukraine. This measure frees the energy storage sector to more rapidly act in the public interest to secure European energy supply and shift European reliance away from fossil-fuels, especially fossil-fuels from Russia. It’s key to highlight that standalone facilities are not included under these measures: energy storage benefits the grid and maximises renewables penetration even when not co-located with a renewable asset, and should therefore benefit of the same permit-granting process as renewable and co-located facilities.



## ANNEX

**Definitions:** The proposal sets up the following definitions:

- (1) 'permit-granting process for renewable energy projects' means the process:
  - (a) comprising all relevant administrative permits issued to build, repower and operate plants for the production of energy from renewable sources including heat pumps, co-located energy storage facilities, and assets necessary for their connection to the grid, including grid connection permits and environmental assessments where these are required; and
  - (b) which starts from the acknowledgment of the reception of the application by the relevant authority and ends with the notification of the final decision on the outcome of the procedure by the relevant authority;
- (2) 'solar energy equipment' means equipment that converts energy from the sun into thermal or electrical energy, in particular solar thermal and solar photovoltaic equipment.



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### About EASE

The European Association for Storage of Energy (EASE) is the voice of the energy storage community, actively promoting the use of energy storage in Europe and worldwide. It supports the deployment of energy storage as an indispensable instrument within the framework of the European energy and climate policy to deliver services to, and improve the flexibility of, the

European energy system. EASE seeks to build a European platform for sharing and disseminating energy storage-related information and supports the transition towards a sustainable, flexible and stable energy system in Europe. For more information, please visit

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### Disclaimer

This response was elaborated by EASE and reflects a consolidated view of its members from an energy storage point of view. Individual EASE members may adopt different positions on certain topics from their corporate standpoint.

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