



## Energy | *Breaking News*

*The European Commission's Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing provisions to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy*

November 2022



## 2. Permit's process for installation of solar energy equipment on "artificial structures"

The Proposal sets forth that, given the current electricity price volatility, granting significantly faster permit procedures will accelerate the installation of solar equipment on artificial structures, such as buildings.

Pursuant to Article 3, the Proposal specifies a **maximum deadline of one month for the permitting process for the installation of solar energy equipment and its co-located storage assets, including building-integrated solar installations, in existing or future artificial structures.** This provision applies for solar energy equipment not installed on natural ground.

Such installations shall be exempted from the requirement, if applicable, to be subject to a determination whether the project requires an environmental impact assessment (EIA) or from the requirement to carry out a dedicated EIA.

For the installation of solar energy equipment of renewables self-consumers with a capacity of 50 kW or less, the concept of positive administrative silence in the relevant permit-granting procedure is introduced in lack of reply by the relevant authorities within one month.



## 3. Repowering of RES plants

The permit-granting process for **repowering of RES projects**, including the permits related to the upgrade of the assets necessary for their connection to the grid where the repowering results in an increase in capacity, **shall not exceed six months including environmental assessments where required** (Article 4).

The environmental assessments should be limited to assess the potential impacts resulting from the change or extension compared to the original project. Moreover, a simplified procedure for grid connections is introduced in case the repowering does not exceed a 15% increase in the total capacity compared to the original project.

## 4. Heat pumps

To accelerate the rollout of **heat pumps**, because of its potential to reduce the use of gas in the supply of heating on buildings (both industrial and residential), Article 5 of the Proposal sets out that the **permit-granting procedure for their installation shall not exceed three months.**

For the grid connection of small heat pumps until 12 kW or serving RES self-consumer plants, a simple prior notice to the competent entity is also introduced.

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