
Regime to accelerate renewable energy deployment

The temporary framework to accelerate the licensing process has been extended, and new rules have been established for greater flexibility in project deployment.

Portugal - Legal Update

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Key aspects

- Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 established a temporary framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy.
- To guarantee the continued stability in renewable energy trade, the European Council acknowledges the need to maintain the temporary emergency measures.
- By extending the existing regulation, Regulation (EU) 2024/223 provides an even faster and more flexible framework for deploying renewable energy projects.



Key aspects of framework to accelerate renewable energy deployment

Published on January 10, [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/223](#)¹ (the “Regulation”) aims to establish additional urgent measures to accelerate the licensing procedure for renewable energy production, with an emphasis on specific technologies or types of renewable energy projects that can boost the deployment of renewable energy in the European Union (“EU”) in the short term. The Regulation is a response to the significant security risks to the energy supply in the European market. However, despite its implementation, there is still significant instability in energy trade.

Therefore, although the original date established in Regulation (EU) 2022/257 was June 30, 2024, the EU has decided to extend the application of these temporary rules to June 30, 2025. One of these rules includes giving a legal presumption of a superior public interest and of health and safety when weighing up legal interests in individual cases.

The Regulation also introduces new rules for determining when the condition of not having alternative or satisfactory solutions for the planned power plant can be considered fulfilled. Under these rules, for projects related to renewable energy production plants or facilities and their connection to the grid, this condition can be considered fulfilled if there are no other satisfactory solutions that can achieve the same objective as that of the project in question. This objective includes developing the same renewable energy production capacity, using the same energy technology, meeting the same (or a similar) deadline, and all without incurring significantly higher costs.

It is also worth underscoring the importance given to specific renewable energy zones, which will be defined by the Member States. This is reflected in the changes to the maximum timeline for authorizing the repowering of renewable energy plants, which is now set at six months. The Regulation also requires specific licensing timelines within these zones.

The Regulation entered into force on January 11, 2024.

¹ Amending Regulation (EU) 2022/2577

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