

Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 21 October 2022

Dear President von der Leyen,

The energy crisis resulting from Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a stark reminder that imported fossil fuels do not provide the reliable and affordable energy European businesses and families need. As you have highlighted in REPowerEU, the accelerated deployment of home-grown renewables will be central to the response to the energy crisis.

REPowerEU has been a step in the right direction with very concrete proposals to accelerate permitting, the main bottleneck to renewables deployment, and the solar strategy.

Many of these proposals benefit from broad political support. However, the current decision-making process reviewing the Renewable Energy Directive means these provisions will only be implemented after the winter 2023-2024. This leaves Europeans facing 2 winters with an unchanged regulatory framework.

The crisis has shown that Europe is able to legislate with a compressed timeline. The Regulations on decreasing gas consumption in July, and on the revenue cap on inframarginal electricity generation in September were each decided in a matter of weeks.

It is now time to apply the same sense of urgency to accelerated renewables deployment. Applying measures that would unlock GWs of new renewable energy capacity in the very short term. Member States agree and have now asked you in yesterday's European Council Conclusions to fast-track the simplification of permitting with emergency measures under Article 122 TFEU.

We call on you to table a Regulation under Article 122 TFEU enshrining the following principles:

- Renewables being in the overriding public interest until climate neutrality is delivered;
- A population-based approach to biodiversity protection;
- Clarification of the scope of the 2-year deadline for permitting new projects: including the grid connection permit and the approval of the Environmental Impact Assessment;
- A simplified Environmental Impact Assessment for repowering renewable energy projects;

- Requiring Member States to hold emergency auctions for combined solar, wind and storage projects by 31 March 2023 - this will reduce the times that gas fired power plants set the price of electricity; and
- Update the Temporary Crisis Framework for State aid, setting the obligation for rooftop PV to go through tenders to above 3 MW instead of the current limit of 1 MW.

We trust you share our sense of urgency, and we stand ready to support your services to this end.

Kind regards,



Walburga Hemetsberger
CEO
SolarPower Europe



Giles Dickson
CEO
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CC:

Frans Timmermans

Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for the European Green Deal

Margrethe Vestager

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Kadri Simson

European Commissioner for Energy

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