

Jozef Sikela

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CC:

EU-26 Energy Ministers

Frans Timmermans

Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

Kadri Simson

Commissioner for Energy

Brussels, 22 November 2022

Open letter to the Czech Presidency of the Council on the EU Emergency Regulation for the acceleration of permitting for renewable energy

Dear Minister,

The undersigned organisations with a stake in Europe's energy security are extremely concerned about the ongoing discussions on the *Council Regulation laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy*. The Regulation is due for adoption by EU Energy Ministers this Thursday 24 November.

The Regulation was meant to help accelerate permitting for renewables. That is an excellent goal.

Europe needs all the new power generation capacity it can get in the coming months. Many renewables projects are ready to go but are waiting on their permits. In wind energy alone there are 80 GW of projects stuck somewhere in the permitting process.

However, as it stands the Emergency Regulation would unlock only a small fraction of these projects. Because it would apply to new permits only. For all the permits that are pending, the Emergency Regulation would not help. In fact, it would set us back compared to the provisions currently discussed between Council and European Parliament as part of the Renewable Energy Directive revision.

These provisions ensure renewables are presumed to be in the overriding public interest, they apply a population-based approach to biodiversity, and clarify all the processes that fall within the 2-year binding permitting deadline. The Emergency Regulation must ensure these rules apply to all renewables permits. Whether they are new or pending.

We urge you to make the necessary simple changes to the text to ensure this Emergency Regulation rises to the challenge at hand and helps unlock tens of GWs of projects to the benefit of European families and businesses.

Kind regards,



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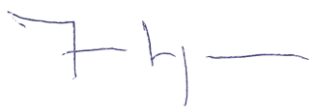
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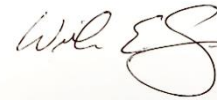
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