

Question for written answer E-005019/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Katri Kulmuni (Renew)

Subject: Acceptability of accelerated permitting procedures

The Commission has granted many energy projects the status of ‘projects of common interest’ (PCIs) or ‘projects of mutual interest’ (PMIs). These projects can enjoy a wide range of advantages. According to the Commission’s note of 1 December 2025, the projects will benefit from accelerated permitting and regulatory processes, among other things.

The objectives of boosting the EU’s competitiveness, phasing out fossil fuels and improving European self-sufficiency and energy security are of course worthy of support. We need more and more renewable energy.

Accelerated procedures for the approval of projects could, however, raise concerns among local communities that are adversely affected by projects carried out in their area. Subsidiarity is a key EU principle. In today’s world, energy projects should enjoy strong social acceptance in the areas they affect. For example, plans for hydropower projects in Northern Finland have sparked heated public debate locally.

With the above in mind: Do accelerated permitting and regulatory processes include sufficient elements to ensure that people in the areas affected by projects are adequately consulted and given opportunities to influence them, and that projects are socially acceptable?

Submitted: 18.12.2025