

**Priority question for written answer P-001551/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Permitting challenges and the need for a comprehensive EU ‘Permitting Omnibus’

While the Commission has included permitting provisions in the Net-Zero Industry Act, the Critical Raw Materials Act and the Industrial Accelerator Act, these proposals mainly focus on procedures and speeding up administrative handling, rather than addressing the underlying reasons why permits are often not granted.

Strict EU environmental legislation (notably the Nitrates Directive, the Habitats and Birds Directives, and the Water Framework Directive) with near-absolute ‘no deterioration’ requirements and case-law of national and EU courts have led to significant permitting challenges for businesses.

The EU Grids Package and EU Ports Strategy acknowledge this. While parallel initiatives are ongoing (including a stress test of the Habitats Directive and a consultation on the Water Framework Directive), these remain fragmented and sector-specific and do not address root causes. A comprehensive permitting ‘omnibus’ is still lacking.

In March 2026, the European Council explicitly called on the Commission to ‘put forward further omnibus and other simplification initiatives, including to further speed up and streamline planning and permitting procedures’.

1. How will the Commission follow up on the March 2026 European Council conclusions?
2. What further steps will be taken to address the root causes of permitting challenges?
3. Is the Commission considering a ‘Permitting Omnibus’ to systematically and horizontally address permitting barriers in EU legislation?

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