

EN

E-003275/2025

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.11.2025)

The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive¹ requires that projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location be subject to an assessment of their environmental effects. For the categories listed in Annex II of this Directive, such as photovoltaic (PV) plants², the authorities must determine whether an assessment is necessary through a case-by-case study or through previously set thresholds or criteria. This assessment is under the responsibility of the national authorities for the individual case, such as the one of this project.

The Commission noted in the Vision for Agriculture and Food³ the limited availability of fertile land in a context of growing competition for its use. In response, the Commission is working towards launching an EU observatory on Farmland to enhance transparency in land use changes and, among others, will help Member States take informed decisions on the regulation of farmland markets.

Locally available renewables such as solar PV can contribute to produce electricity at lower prices than fossil fuels and to lower energy prices for local communities. EU legislation encourages the participation of local communities in renewable energy projects, which can take several forms, including benefit sharing mechanisms⁴. It also encourages Member States to tackle energy poverty by prioritising vulnerable and low-income households in energy efficiency and building renovation projects.

Finally, mindful of the need to balance energy production with other public interests, the Commission has issued recommendations and guidance for Member States on promoting innovative technologies and forms of renewable energy deployment⁵, like agrivoltaics.

¹ Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1–21, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of 16 April 2014 - OJ L 124, 25.4.2014, p. 1–18.

² Referred to in Annex II, 3 a) to the EIA Directive.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>.

⁴ Article 15d of Directive (EU) 2023/2413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652.

⁵ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/fd9542e8-6eae-423a-a0ed-cc710a600473_en?filename=C_2025_4024_1_EN_ACT_part1_v7.pdf.