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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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As far as question 1 is concerned, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)¹ sets out an obligation to install solar energy equipment in certain categories of residential and non-residential buildings. This obligation includes both solar thermal and solar photovoltaic (PV) or the combination of solar PV and thermal (PVT) with clear deadlines. Although the EPBD does not set an obligation to deploy a specific solar thermal capacity, the Commission's EPBD guidance on solar energy buildings² recommends that buildings' energy needs – both heat and electricity – are taken into account when deciding between PV, solar thermal, or combinations of the two. In addition, as solar thermal energy differs from PV in terms of space requirements, the guidance further recommends that the available roof area be considered in the decision-making process. The combination of solar PV and solar thermal can reduce constraints on the electricity grid and contribute to the resilience of the energy system.

In what relates to question 2, Article 10, provides flexibility for Member States in implementing the obligations to deploy suitable solar installations on buildings including allowing exemptions related to technical suitability, economic feasibility and functional feasibility of solar installations. Where grid-related concerns arise, exemptions from the solar obligation should not be automatically granted. Instead, alternative solutions such as self-consumption, energy storage or energy sharing should be considered first. Deferral may only be considered if these options remain unfeasible due to grid concerns.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1275/oj/eng>.

² https://energy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/fd6f89fe-711b-4025-bc37-76b99baaa3fe_en?filename=Solar%20energy%20in%20buildings%20%28Article%2010%29%20-%20annex%208.pdf.