

EN
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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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Projects of Common and Mutual Interest (PCIs/PMIs) are infrastructure projects selected following the procedure in the Trans-European Networks for Energy (TEN-E) Regulation¹, and benefit from the permit granting framework of its chapter III.

The Regulation contains measures dedicated to transparency and public participation² where it establishes three main requirements as the minimum standard for PCIs/PMIs: a concept for public participation must be produced by promoters and approved by national competent authorities; at least one public consultation must take place at an early stage³; promoters must publish a report on the results of the consultation and how the opinions of the public were accounted in identifying the location, trajectory and design of the project⁴.

Furthermore, under the Pact for Engagement⁵, the Commission works with transmission and distribution system operators, regulators, and civil society to strengthen early, regular and meaningful public engagement in grid development projects. The Pact supports practical tools and guidance⁶ to improve transparency, feedback on how input is used, and build social acceptance alongside accelerated permitting.

The European Grids Package proposal⁷, includes a revised TEN-E Regulation⁸ and a Directive to accelerate permit-granting⁹. These acts restate requirements for early and meaningful public consultations and introduce new requirements for renewable energy projects in terms of benefits sharing and deploying an independent facilitator for dialogues with the public.

Therefore, the Commission expects that people in the areas affected are adequately consulted and can influence the project, fostering public acceptance and support for these key energy projects.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2022/869 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2022 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/869/oj/eng>.

² Article 9 of the TEN-E Regulation.

³ This should always be before the permit granting application is submitted and support the identification of the most suitable location, trajectory and technology.

⁴ In the case they were not taken into account promoters need to justify why the public views were not taken into account.

⁵ Launched in 2023 under the EU Action Plan for Grids, https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-launches-new-pact-engagement-electricity-sector-2023-11-28_en.

⁶ E.g. work on public engagement plans.

⁷ 'Commission proposes upgrade of the EU's energy infrastructure to lower bills and boost independence', Press Release, 10 December 2025: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2945.

⁸ Proposal for revised Trans-European Network for Energy (TEN-E) Regulation COM(2025) 1006 final https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-revised-trans-european-network-energy-ten-e-regulation-com2025-1006-final_en.

⁹ Proposal for revised Directive to accelerate permit-granting procedures of infrastructure projects COM(2025) 1007 final https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-revised-directive-accelerate-permit-granting-procedures-infrastructure-projects-com2025_en.