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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The European Green Deal accelerates renewable energy because it serves both citizens and the environment: it reduces greenhouse gas emissions, improves air and environment quality to the benefit of citizens' health and safety, lowers dependence on imported fossil fuels and strengthens Europe's energy security.

Renewable energy projects can benefit local communities by creating local jobs, generating municipal revenues and providing direct benefits to nearby residents. The Renewable Energy Directive (RED)¹ includes an obligation for Member States to promote public acceptance of renewable energy projects by means of direct and indirect participation of local communities. In December 2025, the Commission proposed the European Grids Package² which includes sectorial measures on the authorisation procedures for large scale energy infrastructures and new public participation requirements under RED, including in relation to benefit-sharing.

Renewable energy deployment also moderates electricity prices³. Renewables have very low operating costs and, when they enter the market, their cheaper production is sold before more polluting and expensive power generation means like gas. In Spain, for example, wind and solar growth has reduced the influence of expensive fossil generators on the electricity price by 75% since 2019⁴. This is particularly beneficial for vulnerable and energy poor households.

The assessment and authorisation of individual projects, including their location and possible environmental or cultural heritage impacts, is primarily a competence of the national authorities, in line with EU law on environmental assessment and public participation.

¹ 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, OJ L, 2023/2413, 31.10.2023.

² https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/infrastructure/european-grids_en.

³ ACER 2026 Monitoring Report, available at <https://www.acer.europa.eu/monitoring/electricity-gas-key-developments-2026>. See also European Environmental Agency: 'Renewables, electrification and flexibility - For a competitive EU energy system transformation by 2030', available at <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/newsroom/news/renewables-lower-energy-prices>.

⁴ <https://ember-energy.org/latest-insights/decoupled-how-spain-cut-the-link-between-gas-and-power-prices-using-renewables/>.