Fast and resilient permitting procedures

For small- and large-scale PV

Jan Osenberg, Head of System Integration, 14 March 2025

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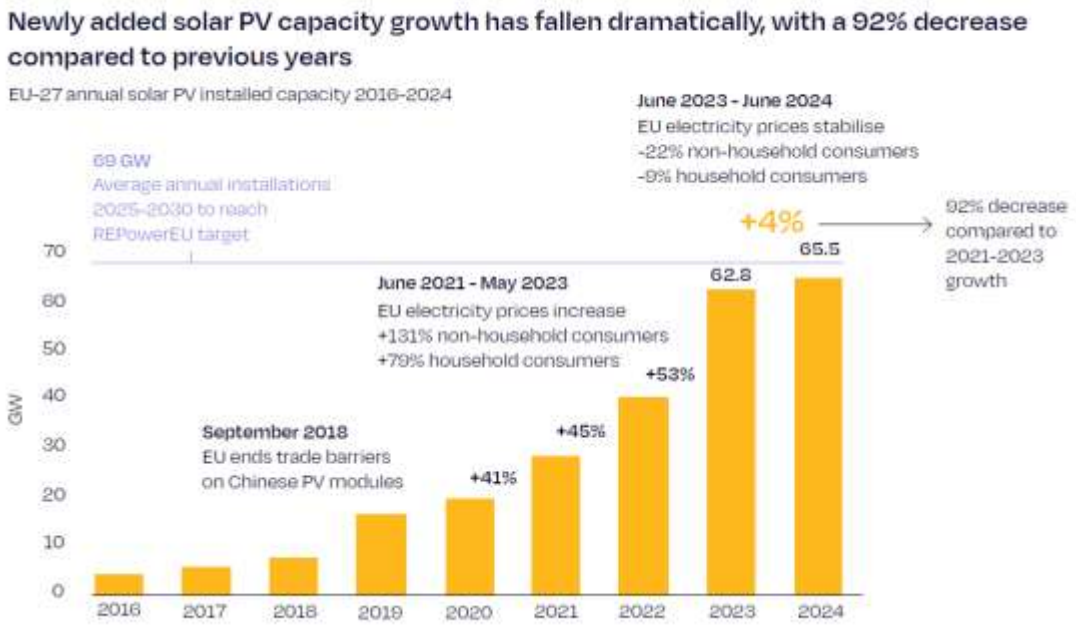

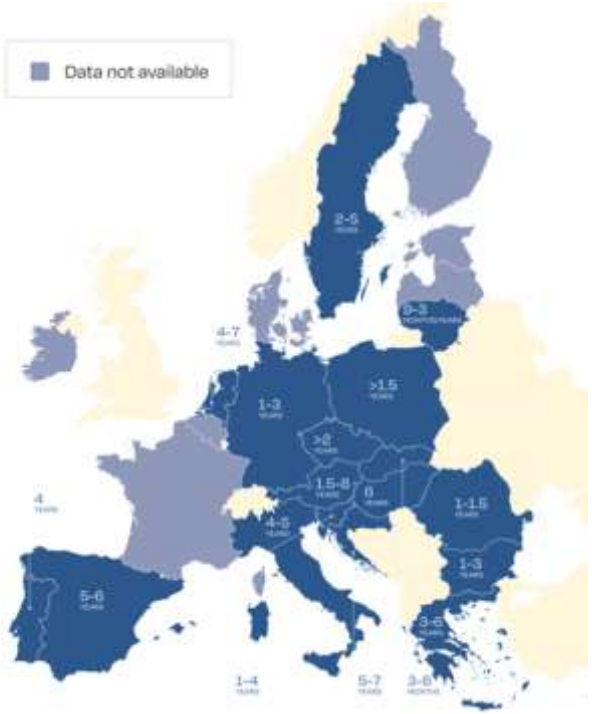

Permitting is key to re-accelerate PV deployment

- The EU's PV industry has developed 65.5 GW in 2024
- But growth dropped to 4% yoy, a 92% growth reduction.
- The entire permitting procedure, including grid connection, still takes too long
  - Four years on average, up to eight years, for ground-mounted PV.
  - 14 countries issue permits for rooftop PV below six months. However, it can still take up to one year.

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Before permitting:
Grid hosting (capacity) maps

Source: Green Power Denmark, Energinet

- Required under 2023 Electricity Market Design revision, Art. 31(3) and 50(4a)
- Grid maps enhance communication between users and operators, reducing misunderstandings and project queues.
- Required information
  - Transferable power capacity (A/MVA) at substations,
  - Grid congestion analysis and causes
  - Cartography of grid sections (overhead/underground) and substation locations
  - Project queues per substation, with digital grid connection requests (as mapped in the U.S.)
  - Planned capacity reinforcements and timelines (as practiced in Flanders, Belgium, and Denmark).
- Promising implementation in DK, BE, FR.

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During permitting: Streamlined procedures → RED Art. 16

One-stop shops and digital permit applications:

- Portugal's EMER task force coordinates public authorities to accelerate applications to meet 2030 NECP targets.
- In Germany, EIA is part of the streamlined procedure.
- Belgium has a digital portal to submit all relevant documents.

Renewables Acceleration Areas (RAA):

- Must avoid: RAAs as exclusive areas for RES deployment (e.g. NL, FR).
- Need to exempt from EIAs in RAAs.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guidelines:

- France has developed dedicated guidelines for EIAs for solar PV.

Positive silience where a response is lacking:

- Slovakia applies the positive silience for EIAs.
- Sweden applies it for grid-connection procedures for small-scale PV.

Deadlines:

- Lithuania enforces the two-year deadline for new installations and one year for repowering.
- Renewables in RAAs need accelerated procedures.

Government-led permitting task force:

- Portugal's EMER task force also has the mandate to review and improve permitting procedures.

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The next frontier: Further opportunities for PV permitting

After permitting: Grid connections

- **Grid queue management:**
  - abolish first-come-first-serve principle.
  - Criteria to enter and remain on the queue.
  - Include critieria to avoid speculation.
- **Enforce the right to Flexible Connection Agreements** in areas with grid shortages.
- ✓ **Prioritisation of hybrid projects** in permitting and grid connection.

Beyond implementation

- Commission to ensure **harmonised implementation** of EU laws.
- **Harmonised requirements for Environmental Impact Assessments**
- **Positive silience and simple notification for large self-consumption systems** on artificial structures.
- ...

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To know more...

Our 2023 briefing is available here:
https://www.solarpowereurope.org/advocacy/position-papers/res-booster-stocktake

Update planned for H2 2025

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