

## Projects of Common Interest – Permitting Procedure

Apart from improved regulatory treatment and EU financial assistance ("CEF"), PCIs also benefit from accelerated and more efficient permit granting. To encourage this, the TEN-E Regulation has introduced several measures, such as: binding overall time limits for a permit granting procedure; a 'one-stop-shop' approach, and increased transparency and earlier public participation.

**Binding Time Limits:** The permit granting process is split into two phases that together cannot exceed the time limit of 3 years and 6 months. The first phase, **the pre-application procedure**, is carried out within a maximum of 2 years and covers the period from the beginning of the process (written acknowledgement of a notification) to the acceptance of a submitted application by the competent authority. The second phase, known as the **statutory permit granting procedure**, cannot exceed 1 year and 6 months and covers the period from the abovementioned acceptance to the moment of taking a comprehensive decision.

**'One-Stop-Shop':** The 'one-stop-shop' approach implies designating one competent authority in every Member State with the responsibility of facilitating and coordinating the permit granting process. This should accelerate the overall procedure making it more possible to adhere to the 3 year 6 month time limit. In cases of trans boundary projects, two or more involved responsible authorities are to jointly take all necessary measures and to ensure efficient cooperation and coordination.

**Transparency & Public Participation:** Transparency and early public participation are key to the timely and efficient approval of infrastructure projects and the responsibility of all actors involved. The Commission has established an **infrastructure transparency platform** that is accessible to the public. This platform includes all relevant project information from general facts to the implementation plans, cost-benefit analysis results, the PCI list and the allocation of funds. The Member State or competent authority is responsible for publishing and if necessary, updating a publicly accessible **manual of procedures for the permit granting process of PCIs**. Lastly, the project promoter must propose (to the competent authority) a **concept for public participation**, carry out minimum one **public consultation** before the application file is submitted and establish and maintain a **website** that not only includes all relevant project information but is also directly linked to the Commission website. The project promoter is also expected to convey this information in any other appropriate means of communication to which the public has access.

### More information:

- [Official Website](#): European Commission Energy Infrastructure
- [Document & Presentation](#) on **Streamlining Environmental Assessment Procedures**: DG Energy's Guidance Document and presentation provide more information on the PCI permitting procedure
- **RGI's PCI Workshop**: Key [Messages](#) and [Summary](#)
- [Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure](#) of the European Union
- The **infrastructure transparency platform** is accessible via this [link](#).

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