

**Question for written answer E-001780/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)

Subject: Projects of common interest - expedited authorisation procedure

The purpose of Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure (TEN-E Regulation) is to ensure a swifter implementation of the necessary development of the European energy infrastructure. It aims to do so by expediting and simplifying authorisation procedures for such projects and by means of financial instruments. Thus, Article 7 of the TEN-E Regulation provides for 'priority status' for projects of common interest (PCIs). Austrian Power Grid AG's 380 kV line in Salzburg is one such PCI. However, despite its PCI status, the related authorisation procedure has been pending for more than six years (a decision at second instance having been adopted recently). Not only does this lengthy procedure jeopardise the security of supply, it is also delaying the integration of renewable energy sources.

1) In future, how does the Commission intend to ensure that the implementation of PCIs is accelerated in practice in the Member States?

2) Is there an overview of the duration of procedures relating to PCIs in the European Union?

3) The Austrian Location Development Act (Standortentwicklungsgesetz) entered into force on 1 January 2019. The law provides for the effective acceleration of projects especially serving the public interest in the Republic of Austria. Could this serve as a model for other Member States to ensure fast-track authorisation procedures for PCIs?