The Spanish Recovery and Resilience Plan (‘the Plan’), approved via a Council implementing decision\(^1\), does not include a specific reform of municipal licensing procedures. Other reforms were prioritised at the time to ensure effective implementation of the investments included under the national recovery and resilience plan. Among others, these include reforms to:
- Address various planning, programming and collaboration instruments to ensure fulfilment of the right to decent and adequate housing, including the rehabilitation and improvement of the existing housing stock.
- Encourage and extend local renovation offices to accompany households and communities of owners in the highly complex tasks of rehabilitating a residential building.
- Support access to finance on favourable terms by: i) new guarantee lines to partially cover the risk of loans granted to renovate residential buildings; ii) improving access to finance for communities of owners; and iii) encouraging the deployment of green finance.

One of the two key objectives of the REPowerEU strategy published on 8 March 2022\(^2\) is to accelerate the reduction of EU dependency on fossil fuels at the level of homes, buildings and industry, and at the level of the power system by boosting energy efficiency gains, increasing the share of renewable and addressing infrastructure bottlenecks. The European Council called on the Commission to present a REPowerEU plan by the end of May 2022.

On 18 May 2022 the Commission presented the REPowerEU Plan\(^3\), its response to the hardships and global energy market disruption caused by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is at the heart of the REPowerEU Plan, supporting coordinated planning and financing of cross-border and national infrastructure as well as energy projects and reforms in line with the 2022 country specific recommendations.

In this context, the Commission has proposed to make targeted amendments to the RRF Regulation to integrate dedicated REPowerEU chapters in Member States’ existing recovery and resilience plans. The scope of the REPowerEU chapters include, inter alia, measures to boost energy efficiency in buildings, including planning and permitting reforms (under Article 21c of the proposed amendments to the RRF Regulation).

\(^3\) COM(2020) 230 final.