As part of the package of proposals accompanying the REPowerEU plan\(^1\), the Commission adopted, on 18 May 2022, also an amendment of Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings. Through this amendment, the Commission proposes to ensure the gradual deployment of solar energy installations in certain categories of buildings. Member States shall define the technology and the criteria for the practical implementation of this obligation. This will allow for possible exemptions for specific types of buildings, in accordance with the potential of the solar energy installations and the characteristics of the buildings covered by this obligation. These criteria could include geographical factors or other technical parameters such as shading or roof orientation.

The accompanying Communication on an EU Solar Energy Strategy\(^2\) has also established the European Solar Rooftops Initiative. The objective of this initiative is to promote the deployment acceleration of solar energy installations required to achieve the REPowerEU targets at EU level, using existing structures such as roofs. The strategy does not call for subsidies to solar energy, although it proposes that Member States build their support frameworks on the payback time required to recover the investment made in the equipment. The length of this payback time has decreased over time due to the steady drop in the price of solar panels and the increase in energy prices. This reflects the underutilised potential of ‘solar rooftops’ to contribute to an integrated energy system and to a more resilient and independent energy system based on renewable energy, in which citizens can produce their own energy and be partially protected from the volatility in fossil fuel prices.

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\(^1\) https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_3131
\(^2\) https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/renewable-energy/solar-energy_en