

**Question for written answer E-000503/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Domènec Ruiz Devesa (S&D)

Subject: Suspension of permits for solar panels in Elche

A new local government in Elche led by the PP-VOX coalition was formed on 17 June 2023. On 8 September 2023, the new local government suspended the granting of building permits for 24 solar power plants, potentially preventing the creation of 500 jobs and EUR 100 million in investment.

A written question was submitted on 13 October 2023, to which the Commission replied on 30 November 2023 saying that it was not in a position to make a comprehensive assessment of the decisions in question and their environmental impact in particular, and cited EU legislation.

Under the legislation cited by the Commission, Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 lays down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy and boost the REPowerEU plan. Furthermore, Commission working document SWD(2022)0149, linked to Recommendation C(2022)3219, calls for faster permit-granting procedures for renewable energy projects.

In view of the above:

Does the Commission believe that the municipal government's decision is consistent and compatible with EU renewable energy objectives and the above-mentioned documents?

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