



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
COMPETITION DG

Markets and cases I : Energy and Environment
The Director

Brussels, 02.02.2022

Dear Petitioner,

The Commission is aware of the beneficial role that renewable energy communities can play in the achievement of the European Green Deal objectives. Whereas the communication for "A competition policy fit for new challenges" does not address renewable energy communities, the Commission has included several new provisions supporting these important actors into the revised State aid guidelines for energy and the environment. The new guidelines were adopted on 27 January 2022 and have now entered into force¹.

The new guidelines provide additional flexibility for renewable energy communities, exempting smaller energy community projects from competitive bidding requirements, and allowing them to benefit of direct price support with no obligation to sell the electricity produced into the market. The Commission is also aware that communities may also wish to develop larger projects, and welcomes this possibility. However, larger projects have larger competition impacts. It is a question of striking the right balance, and your suggestion on the thresholds for such exemptions were well noted.

In addition, the Commission took note of your suggestion to adopt rules that differentiate between wind energy and other forms of energy. The new guidelines give Member States greater freedom to conduct technology specific tenders than the previous guidelines did. This aims to achieve the right balance between ensuring the cost-effectiveness of public spending, and supporting the deployment of technologies which may be key to achieve the Green Deal objectives.

I hope this information is helpful for you, and I thank you for writing to the Commission about this important topic.

Yours faithfully,

(e-signed)
Anna Colucci

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/competition-policy/sectors/energy-and-environment/legislation_en

