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Amendments to priorities for granting access to grid

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MIRA
TODOROVIC
SYMEONIDES



GKANA
EVANGELIA

On 20 January 2023, ministerial decision No. 7063/2023, amending the decision No. 84014/2022, was published in the *Official Journal*.⁽¹⁾ Decision No. 84014/2022 regulates the priority framework for granting final connection offers by the network operator and the system operator for:

- renewable energy source (RES) plants;
- high efficiency combined heat and power electricity plants; and
- electricity storage plants, including saturated grid areas exempt from any other general or special provision.

Regarding category B of the RES plant classification categories, the main amendment concerns bilateral, corporate power purchase agreements (PPA). In particular, the maximum capacity limit for connection offers in this group was increased from 1,500 to 4,000 megawatts of installed capacity.

Other amendments within various categories and sub-categories are as follows:

- The maximum capacity of grid connection offers in category A4 is increased.
- A new sub-category has been created for wind farms within 30 kilometres of the border with a maximum capacity of 250 megawatts.
- The projects in sub-category A5 (RES with internal storage) will not have a 20% capacity reduction.
- Projects in category B and category C will be assessed alternately.
- The priority bond for category B (PPA) projects will be submitted six months after the binding offer is issued for the connection to the grid (not after the acceptance of the offer).
- Category D (RES projects combined with storage) projects can be assessed in parallel with category B and C projects, if they do not prejudice the issuance of a binding offer for connection to the grid for these categories.
- Pure storage projects that do not affect the grid absorption of RES projects are now assessed in parallel with category B (rather than with category C) and with priority over categories C, D, E and F.

Furthermore, regarding strategic investments of sub-category A2, the decision regulates the procedure of capacities reduction as follows. First, the operator determines the maximum capacity in each region and per project and then communicates it to the applicants. The investors concerned may:

- withdraw the application or project that is part of a joint request; or
- propose different capacity reductions for its plants.

If the investor fails to implement the above or its proposal is not accepted by the operator, the operator will apply the reduced installed capacity in proportion to each station.

If a joint request application for permission to connect to the grid is withdrawn the operator will reevaluate the application retaining its completion date.

For further information on this topic please contact *Mira Todorovic Symeonides* or *Gkana Evangelia* at Rokas Law Firm by telephone (+30 210 361 6816) or email (m.todorovic@rokas.com or egkana@rokas.com). The Rokas Law Firm website can be accessed at www.rokas.com.

Endnotes

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