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## **More renewables mean huge investments, so don't tamper with market rules**

The current crisis highlights the need to improve Europe's energy security. Which means **more renewables ASAP**. The EU and national governments clearly get this. Germany's Finance Minister Christian Lindner recently called renewables "freedom energies".

Next week's **EU Commission paper on energy prices** is a great chance to plot the course that will deliver the rapid expansion of renewables and energy security.

The Commission knows the biggest **bottleneck** to the expansion of renewables is the complex rules and procedures that exist across Europe for the **permitting** of new wind and solar. Enforcing the EU deadlines for permit decisions that came into force last year is of paramount importance. As is the upcoming Commission guidance to Member States on *how* exactly they can simplify their permitting processes.

At the same time, the expansion of renewables requires huge levels of new **investment**. This in turn requires **regulatory stability**. Europe's **electricity market rules** provide such stability. To tamper with them, e.g. by allowing governments to change the rules on **how prices are set**, would remove that stability and freeze investments. Which in turn would mean fewer renewables. And no energy security.