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RAPPORT

minn:	Segretarjat Ġenerali tal-Kunsill
lil:	Kumitat tar-Rappreżentanti Permanenti/Kunsill
Nru. dok. preċ.	ST 14136/18
Nru dok. Cion:	ST 9075/18 + ADD 1-3
Suġġett:	Proposta għal Regolament tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill dwar ir-razzjonalizzazzjoni ta' miżuri li jmxexxu 'l quddiem it-twertiq tan-netwerk trans-Ewropew tat-trasport – Rapport ta' progress

I. INTRODUZZJONI

Fis-17 ta' Mejju 2018, il-Kummissjoni ppreżentat lill-Parlament Ewropew u lill-Kunsill il-proposta msemmija hawn fuq, bħala parti mit-tielet Pakkett “L-Ewropa Attiva”, li huwa mfassal li jagħmel il-mobbiltà Ewropea aktar sikura, aktar nadifa, aktar effiċjenti u aktar aċċessibbli.

L-oġġettiv prinċipali tal-proposta huwa li jkunu simplifikati r-regoli dwar l-ġhoti tal-permessi u proċeduri regolatorji oħra bil-għan li tkun faċilitata t-tlestija tan-netwerk TEN-T. Għandha l-għan ukoll li tiċċara aktar il-proċessi li l-promoturi tal-proġetti jeħtieġ isegwu, b'mod partikolari fir-rigward tal-ġhoti tal-permessi, l-akkwist pubbliku u proċeduri oħra.

Il-proposta għandha l-għan li tilhaq l-objettiv prinċipali tagħha billi:

- tistabbilixxi awtorità kompetenti unika fil-livell nazzjonali (punt uniku ta' servizz) li tkun responsabbli mill-proċess globali u li taġixxi bħala l-punt uniku ta' dħul għall-promoturi tal-proġetti u għal investituri oħra;
- tistabbilixxi proċeduri integrati li jwasslu għal deċiżjoni komprensiva waħda;
- tistabbilixxi skadenzi għal proċess b'żewġ stadji b'perijodu ta' żmien massimu ta' tliet snin.

II. HIDMA FL-ISTITUZZJONIJIET L-OHRA

Fil-Parlament Ewropew, il-Kumitat għat-Trasport u t-Turiżmu nħatar bħala l-kumitat responsabbli minn dan il-fajl u s-Sur Dominique Riquet (ALDE, FR) inħatar bħala r-rapporteur. L-abbozz tar-rapport huwa disponibbli. Il-Kumitat għall-Ambjent, is-Saħħa Pubblika u s-Sikurezza tal-Ikel (ENVI), il-Kumitat għas-Suq Intern u l-Harsien tal-Konsumatur (IMCO) u l-Kumitat għall-Iżvilupp Reġjonali (REGI) ser jadottaw opinjoni dwar il-proposta.

Il-Kumitat Ekonomiku u Soċjali Ewropew adotta opinjoni fis-sessjoni plenarja tas-17 ta' Ottubru 2018. Il-Kumitat tar-Reġjuni Ewropew huwa mistenni li jadotta opinjoni fi Frar 2019.

III. HIDMA FIL-KORPI PREPARATORJI TAL-KUNSILL

Il-proposta kienet ippreżentata u l-valutazzjoni tal-impatt giet eżaminata f'żewġ laqgħat tal-Grupp ta' Hidma dwar it-Trasport - Kwistjonijiet Intermodali u Networks f'Ġunju 2018. Il-Presidenza ddedikat żewġ laqgħat f'Lulju għall-eżami tal-proposta artikolu wara artikolu.

Fil-5 ta' Ottubru 2018, il-Grupp ta' Hidma ppreżenta l-ewwel proposta ta' kompromess tal-Presidenza, meħmuża mar-rapport. Il-kompromess tal-Presidenza primarjament ipprova jallinja din il-proposta ma' ċerti dispożizzjonijiet simili tar-Regolament dwar il-linji gwida għall-infrastruttura tal-enerġija trans-Ewropea¹. Filwaqt li l-proposta tal-Presidenza kienet rikonoxxuta mill-Istati Membri bħala l-ewwel pass fid-direzzjoni t-tajba, ma setgħatx tindirizza t-tħassib kollu espress fil-Grupp ta' Hidma.

IV. OSSERVAZZJONIJIET TAL-EŻAMI

Kummenti ġenerali

Matul l-ewwel ċikli ta' diskussjoni, il-proposta rċeviet reazzjonijiet imħallta mill-Istati Membri. L-Istati Membri kollha laqgħu l-oġettiv tal-proposta, jiġifieri li jingheleb id-dewmien minhabba proċeduri tal-ġhoti tal-permessi u li jkun implimentat in-netwerk TEN-T mingħajr dewmien bla bżonn sal-2030. Xi Stati Membri, madankollu, ġibdu l-attenzjoni li l-miżuri proposti fl-abbozz ta' Regolament ma kinux jikkontribwixxu b'mod suffiċjenti biex jinkiseb l-oġettiv prinċipali tal-proposta u f'ċerti każijiet setgħu jwasslu biex il-progress jimxi saħansitra b'pass aktar bil-mod.

B'mod aktar speċifiku, diversi Stati Membri esprimew tħassib dwar l-introduzzjoni ta' awtorità kompetenti unika fil-livell nazzjonali li tkun responsabbli mill-proċeduri tal-ġhoti tal-permessi. Huma kellhom dubju kif din id-dispożizzjoni tista' tiġi implimentata fil-prattika fl-Istati Membri u x'impatt ikollha fuq l-awtoritajiet lokali u reġjonali f'termini ta' finanzjament u volum ta' xogħol. It-test ta' kompromess tal-Presidenza, li jippermetti lill-awtoritajiet eżistenti fil-livell amministrattiv adatt li jsiru awtorità kompetenti unika, kien meqjus bħala pass fid-direzzjoni t-tajba.

¹ Ir-Regolament (UE) Nru 347/2013 tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill tas-17 ta' April 2013 dwar linji gwida għall-infrastruttura tal-enerġija trans-Ewropea u li jħassar id-Deciżjoni Nru 1364/2006/KE u li jemenda r-Regolamenti (KE) Nru 713/2009, (KE) Nru 714/2009 u (KE) Nru 715/2009, (ĠU L 115, 25.4.2013, p. 39).

Barra minn hekk, ghadd ta' Stati Membri qajmu dubji dwar il-kompatibbiltà tal-proposta mal-prinċipju ta' sussidjarjetà. Huma għibdu l-attenzjoni għall-fatt li l-introduzzjoni ta' proċedura tal-ġoti tal-permessi integrata u awtorità unika responsabbli mill-proċeduri tal-ġoti tal-permessi tillimita l-kompetenza nazzjonali tal-Istati Membri biex jistrutturaw u jorganizzaw l-awtoritajiet u l-proċeduri nazzjonali u għalhekk tillimita d-dispożizzjoni għat-teħid tad-deċiżjonijiet nazzjonali. Xi whud enfasizzaw ukoll li l-proċeduri integrati ta' ppjanar u ta' ġoti tal-permessi proposti jistgħu jkunu kontroproduktivi: minflok ma javvanzaw il-progress jistgħu saħansitra jdewmuh aktar u jistgħu jwasslu għal deċiżjonijiet inqas kost-effettivi peress li jittiehed anqas kont tal-kondizzjonijiet u l-opportunitajiet ta' finanzjament lokali u reġjonali.

Matul l-eżami tal-valutazzjoni tal-impatt, diversi Stati Membri staqsew, fir-rigward tal-alternattiva ta' politika 2 rakkomandata, jekk it-tip ta' strument legali magħżul kienx adatt. Huma qalu li regoli uniformi mal-Ewropa kollha jistgħu jinkisbu wkoll billi jiġi propost tip ta' strument legali ieħor, pereżempju direttiva jew linji gwida, li jkun iħalli flessibbiltà suffiċjenti lill-Istati Membri biex jimplimentaw il-miżuri.

Fl-aħħar nett, xi Stati Membri hassew li daww il-fatturi li kienu l-kawża tal-aktar dewmien rilevanti fl-implimentazzjoni ta' proġetti tal-infrastruttura – bħall-akkwist tal-art, il-valutazzjonijiet tal-impatt ambjentali, appelli mill-NGOs, u kwistjonijiet tekniċi jew finanzjarji – ma kinux ġew indirizzati b'mod suffiċjenti fil-valutazzjoni tal-impatt.

Kummenti dwar kwistjonijiet speċifiċi

(a) Kamp ta' applikazzjoni (Artikolu 1)

Skont xi Stati Membri l-kamp ta' applikazzjoni tal-abbozz ta' Regolament kien wiesa' wisq, u mhux speċifiku biżżejjed. Huma xtaqu jillimitaw il-kamp ta' applikazzjoni għal proġetti transkonfinali jew proġetti b'livell limitu finanzjarju definit. Xi Stati Membri oħra, min-naħa l-oħra, kienu favur l-espansjoni ulterjuri tal-kamp ta' applikazzjoni biex jinkludi proġetti ta' interess komuni dwar in-netwerk TEN-T komprensiv. Ghadd ta' Stati Membri oħra kienu kontra din il-proposta. Barra minn hekk, xi ftit Stati Membri talbu għall-estensjoni tal-kamp ta' applikazzjoni għal proġetti transkonfinali ma' pajjiżi terzi.

Ittiehdet nota pożittiva tat-test ta' kompromess tal-Presidenza li jippermetti lill-Istati Membri jestendu l-kamp ta' applikazzjoni fuq bazi fakultattiva għal proġetti ta' interess komuni dwar in-netwerk TEN-T komprensiv.

(b) Integrazzjoni tal-proċeduri tal-ghoti tal-permessi (Artikolu 4)

Bosta Stati Membri kienu mħassba dwar il-kunċett tad-“deċiżjoni komprensiva”, kif propost mill-Kummissjoni. Fil-fehma ta' bosta, tidher li hija deċiżjoni kumplessa żzejjed li tkun diffiċli hafna biex tiġi integrata fl-awtoritajiet differenti involuti fl-ghoti tal-permessi. Tressqu wkoll xi mistoqsijiet ta' kjarifika dwar xi tkun tinkludi eżattament id-deċiżjoni komprensiva, pereżempju jekk il-valutazzjonijiet ambjentali jew il-ġestjoni tat-territorju jitqisux parti minnha.

It-test ta' kompromess tal-Presidenza li jadatta d-deċiżjoni komprensiva biex tkun konformi ma' approċċ koordinat kien rikonoxxut b'mod pożittiv minn xi Stati Membri iżda xi oħrajn qisuh bħala insuffiċjenti.

(c) Awtorità kompetenti unika għall-ghoti tal-permessi (Artikolu 5)

B'mod ġenerali, l-Istati Membri esprimew id-dubbi tagħhom dwar id-deżinjazzjoni ta' entità unika ta' “livell oġhla” li jkollha aktar awtorità u setgħa ta' teħid ta' deċiżjonijiet minn entitajiet oħra involuti fil-proċess. Peress li l-proġetti tat-trasport huma differenti hafna f'termini ta' daqs, tip u post, l-awtoritajiet kompetenti għal kull wieħed minnhom tkun tiddependi fuq il-permess partikolari mitlub u fuq il-post, minhabba li awtoritajiet differenti għandhom il-hila esperta u l-kompetenza. Għaldaqstant, l-istruttura proposta kellha r-riskju li twassal għal konflitti ġurisdizzjonali f'kazijiet meta fil-livell lokali jew nazzjonali jkunu involuti aktar minn ministeru wieħed u/jew aktar minn livell wieħed ta' teħid ta' deċiżjonijiet. B'konsegwenza ta' dan, l-Istati Membri talbu għal aktar flessibbiltà. Xi wħud kienu lesti jiddiskutu l-funzjoni ta' korp kompetenti uniku li jista' jkollu r-rwol ta' koordinatur li jiġbor diversi permessi mill-awtoritajiet nazzjonali differenti b'kompetenzi differenti.

It-test ta' kompromess tal-Presidenza li jittrasforma l-awtorità kompetenti unika f'punt uniku ta' servizz abbażi ta' approċċ koordinat aktar milli approċċ integrat kien appoġġat minn xi ftit Stati Membri filwaqt li oħrajn appellaw għal aktar flessibbiltà.

**(d) It-tul taż-żmien u l-implimentazzjoni tal-proċedura tal-ghoti tal-permessi
(Artikolu 6)**

Il-biċċa l-kbira tal-Istati Membri qiesu li l-iskadenzi proposti biex jitwettqu l-proċeduri kienu qosra wisq, b'mod partikolari fir-rigward tal-limitu ta' żmien għall-faži ta' qabel l-applikazzjoni (sentejn). Barra minn hekk, bosta Stati Membri qiesu li l-artikolu kien wisq dettaljat, u kien hemm tħassib dwar kif limitu ta' żmien tajjeb għal kulhadd ikun jiffunzjona b'mod effettiv fid-dawl tal-kumplessità u d-diversità tal-proġetti tat-trasport.

Xi Stati Membri rabtu l-iskadenzi mal-kwistjoni ta' liema proċeduri kienu inkluzi fil-proċess biex jinkisbu l-permessi fil-qafas ta' entità unika. F'dan ir-rigward, xi wħud appoġġaw l-esklużjoni ta' ċerti proċeduri marbuta mat-tnejja tad-dokumenti tal-applikazzjoni għal proġetti (jiġifieri l-ġestjoni tat-territorju u l-valutazzjonijiet ambjentali, eċċ) mill-kamp ta' applikazzjoni tal-proċedura tal-ghoti tal-permessi peress li dawn huma proċessi li jieħdu fit-tul u li wisq probabbli jikkawżaw dewmien, u b'hekk jagħmluha diffiċli hafna jew saħansitra impossibbli li jiġi rispettata il-limitu ta' żmien propost.

Hareġ ċar li sabiex isir progress fuq dan il-fajl hija meħtieġa hidma ulterjuri għal kjarifika u simplifikazzjoni speċjalment fir-rigward tal-Artikoli 5 u 6.

V. KONKLUŻJONI

Il-kwistjonijiet innizzla hawn fuq jidher li huma ċentrali f'din il-proposta, u għaldaqstant taw bidu għal diskussjoni estensiva fil-Grupp ta' Hidma. Dawn il-kwistjonijiet ser jeħtieġ jiġu indirizzati taħt il-Presidenza li jmiss sabiex isir progress ulterjuri u jintlaħaq qbil dwar dan il-fajl.

Fid-dawl ta' dan t'hawn fuq, il-Kumitat tar-Rappreżentanti Permanenti u l-Kunsill huma mistiedna jieħdu nota tal-progress li sar fir-rigward tal-analiżi tar-Regolament propost.

Proposal for a
REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
on streamlining measures for advancing the realisation of the trans-European transport
network

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 172 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee²,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions³,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

² OJ C , , p. .

³ OJ C , , p. .

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ sets out a common framework for the creation of state-of-the-art, interoperable networks for the development of the internal market. The trans-European transport networks (TEN-T) have a dual layer structure: the comprehensive network ensures connectivity of all regions of the Union whereas the core network consists of those elements of the network which are of the highest strategic importance for the Union. Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 defines binding completion targets for implementation, with the core network to be completed by 2030 and the comprehensive network by 2050.
- (2) Notwithstanding the necessity and binding timelines, experience has shown that many investments aiming to complete the TEN-T are confronted with complex permit granting procedures, cross-border procurement procedures and other procedures. This situation jeopardises the on time implementation of projects and in many cases results in significant delays and increased costs. In order to address these issues and make synchronised TEN-T completion possible,, harmonised action is necessary at Union level.
- (3) In the legal frameworks of many Member States priority treatment is given to certain project categories based on their strategic importance for the economy. Priority treatment is characterised by shorter timelines, simultaneous procedures or limited timeframes for appeals while ensuring that the objectives of other horizontal policies are also reached. When such a framework exists within a national legal framework, it should automatically apply to Union projects recognised as projects of common interest under Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013.

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network and repealing Decision No 661/2010/EU (OJ L 348, 20.12.2013, p. 1).

- (4) In order to improve the effectiveness of the environmental assessments and streamline the decision-making process, where the obligation to carry out assessments related to environmental issues of core network projects arises simultaneously from Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, and from other Union legislation such as Directive 92/43/EEC, Directive 2009/147/EC, Directive 2000/60/EC, Directive 2008/98/EC, Directive 2010/75/EU, Directive 2012/18/EU and Directive 2011/42/EC, Member States should ensure that a joint procedure fulfilling the requirements of these Directives is provided.
- (5) Core network projects should be supported by integrated permit granting procedures to make clear management of the overall procedure possible and to provide a single entry point for investors. Member States should designate a competent authority in accordance with their national legal frameworks and administrative set-ups.
- (6) The establishment of a single competent authority at national level integrating all permit granting procedures (one-stop shop) should reduce the complexity, improve the efficiency and increase the transparency of the procedures. It should also enhance the cooperation between Member States where appropriate. The procedures should promote a real cooperation between investors and the single competent authority and should therefore allow for the scoping in the pre-application phase of the permit granting procedure. Such scoping should be integrated in the detailed application outline and follow the procedure set out in Article 5(2) of 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.
- (7) The procedure set out by this Regulation should be without prejudice to the fulfilment of the requirements defined in the international and Union law, including provisions to protect the environment and human health.
- (8) Given the urgency to complete the TEN-T core network, the simplification of permit granting procedures should be accompanied by a time limit within which competent authorities responsible should make a [...] **consolidated** decision regarding the construction of the project. This time limit should stimulate a more efficient handling of procedures and should, under no circumstances, compromise the Union's high standards for environmental protection and public participation.

- (9) Member States should endeavour to ensure that appeals challenging the substantive or procedural legality of a [...] **consolidated** decision are handled in the most efficient way possible.
- (10) Cross-border TEN-T infrastructure projects face particular challenges as regards the coordination of permit granting procedures. The European Coordinators should be empowered to monitor these procedures and facilitate their synchronisation and completion.
- (11) Public procurement in cross-border projects of common interest should be conducted in accordance with the Treaty and Directives 2014/25/EU and/or 2014/24/EU. In order to ensure the efficient completion of the cross-border core network projects of common interest, public procurement carried out by a joint entity should be subject to a single national legislation. By way of derogation from the Union public procurement legislation, the applicable national rules should in principle be those of the Member State where the joint entity has its registered office. It should remain possible to define the applicable legislation in an intergovernmental agreement.
- (12) The Commission is not systematically involved in the authorisation of individual projects. However, in some cases, certain aspects of the project preparation are subject to clearance at Union level. Where the Commission is involved in the procedures, it will give priority treatment to the Union projects of common interest and ensure certainty for project promoters. In some cases State aid approval might be required. In line with the Best Practice Code for the conduct of State aid control procedures, Member States may ask the Commission to deal with projects of common interest on the core network of the TEN-T they consider to be of priority with more predictable timelines under the case portfolio approach or the mutually agreed planning.

- (13) The implementation of infrastructure projects on the TEN-T core network should be also supported by Commission guidelines that bring more clarity as regards the implementation of certain types of projects while respecting the Union acquis. For example the Action Plan for nature, people and the economy⁵ foresees such guidance to bring more clarity in view of respecting the Birds and Habitats Directives. Direct support related to public procurement should be made available for projects of common interests to ensure the best value for public money⁶. Additionally, appropriate technical assistance should be made available under the mechanisms developed for the Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2021-2027, with the aim of providing financial support for TEN-T projects of common interest.
- (14) Since the objectives of this Regulation cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore, by reason of the need for coordination of those objectives, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.
- (15) For reasons of legal certainty, the administrative procedures which started prior to the entry into force of this Regulation should not be subject to the provisions of this Regulation.

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

⁵ COM(2017) 198 final.

⁶ COM(2017) 573 final

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject matter and scope

- 1.** This Regulation sets out requirements applicable to the administrative procedures followed by the competent authorities of Member States in relation to the authorisation and implementation of all projects of common interest on the core network of the trans-European transport network.
- 2. Member States may decide to extend the application of this regulation to projects of common interest on the comprehensive network of the trans-European transport network.**

Article 2

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the definitions set out in Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 shall apply. The following definitions shall also apply:

- (a) "[...] **consolidated** decision" means the decision [...] by a Member State authority or authorities **adopted accordingly to its national legal or administrative system**, not including courts or tribunals, that determines whether or not a project promoter is to be granted authorisation to build the transport infrastructure needed to complete a project without prejudice to any decision taken in the context of an administrative appeal procedure;
- (b) "permit granting procedures" means every procedure that has to be followed or step that has to be taken [...] **as required by** the authorities of a Member State, under Union or national law, before the project promoter can implement the project, **not including procedures for the award of public procurements**;

(b)(i) "Project of common interest" means a project according to Article 3(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013.

- (c) "Project promoter" means the applicant for authorisation for a [...] project or the public authority which initiates a project";
- (d) "single competent authority" means **an existing or newly established** [...] authority, **identified by a Member State at the appropriate administrative level for each project or category of projects of common interest,** which [...] **acts as a “one-stop shop” and is** [...] responsible for performing the duties arising from this Regulation;
- (e) "Cross-border project of common interest" means a project of common interest according to Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 covering a cross-border section as defined in point (m) Article 3 of that Regulation which is implemented by a joint entity.

CHAPTER II – PERMIT GRANTING

Article 3

‘Priority status’ of projects of common interest

1. Each project of common interest on the TEN-T core network shall be subject to an integrated permit granting procedure [...] **run** by a single competent authority [...] **identified** by each Member State in accordance with Articles 5 and 6.
2. Where priority status exists under national law, projects of common interest shall be granted the status with the highest national significance possible, and be treated as such in permit granting procedures, where and in the manner such treatment is provided for in national legislation applicable to the corresponding types of transport infrastructure.
3. To ensure efficient [...] **permit granting** procedures related to projects of common interest, project promoters and all authorities concerned shall ensure that the most rapid treatment legally possible is given to these projects, including as regards the resources allocated.

Article 4

Integration Coordination of permit granting procedures

1. In order to meet the time limits set out in Article 6 and reduce the administrative burden related to **the authorisation and the** completion of projects of common interest, all the [...] **permit granting** procedures resulting from the applicable law, both national and of the Union, shall be [...] **coordinated** and result in [...] one [...] **consolidated** decision.
2. In the case of projects of common interest for which the obligation to carry out assessments of the effects on the environment arises simultaneously from Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and other Union law, Member States shall ensure that joint procedures within the meaning of Article 2(3) of Directive 2011/92/EU are provided for.

Article 5

Single competent Organisation of the permit granting authority process

1. [...] **E**[...]ach Member State shall [...] **ensure that a** [...] single competent authority [...] **is** responsible for facilitating [...] permit granting [...] **procedures for a project of common interest** including for making the [...] **consolidated** decision.
2. **Each Member State may entrust t**[...]he responsibility of the single competent authority referred to in paragraph 1 and/or the tasks related to it [...] to an **existing or newly established** [...] authority at the appropriate administrative level, per project of common interest, **per geographical area** or per particular category of projects of common interest, [...] **provided that**[...]

[...] only one authority is responsible per project of common interest, [...]

[...] is the sole point of contact for the project promoter in the procedure leading to the [...] **consolidated** decision for a given project of common interest, and

[...] coordinates the submission of all relevant documents and information.

The single competent authority may retain the responsibility to establish time limits, without prejudice to the time limits set in accordance with Article 6.

[...]

3. By 1 January 2021, each Member State shall take the suitable measures in accordance with its national legal system to identify the single competent authority, where relevant at the appropriate administrative level and per category of projects of common interests. This information shall be made available to project promoters, to the neighbouring Member States and to the European Commission.
- 3(a) The single competent authority shall issue the consolidated decision within the time limits specified in Article 6.
- 3(b) The consolidated decision comprises multiple individual legally binding decisions issued simultaneously or successively by several authorities concerned, including the decision resulting from the joint procedures referred to in Article 4(2), which shall be coordinated by the single competent authority.
- 3(c) The single competent authority shall, in consultation with the other authorities concerned, where applicable in accordance with national law, and without prejudice to time limits set in accordance with Article 6, establish on a case-by-case basis a reasonable time limit within which the individual decisions shall be issued.
- 3(d) The single competent authority may take an individual decision on behalf of another national authority concerned, if the decision by that authority is not delivered within the time limit and if the delay cannot be adequately justified; or, where provided under national law, and to the extent that this is compatible with Union law, the competent authority may consider that another national authority concerned has either given its approval or refusal for the project if the decision by that authority is not delivered within the time limit. Where provided under national law, the competent authority may disregard an individual decision of another national authority concerned if it considers that the decision is not sufficiently substantiated with regard to the underlying evidence presented by the national authority concerned.
4. When taking the [...] **consolidated** decision, the single competent authority shall ensure that the relevant requirements under **national**, international and Union law are respected and shall duly justify its decision.

5. If a project of common interest requires decisions to be taken in two or more Member States, the respective competent authorities shall take all the necessary steps for efficient and effective cooperation and coordination among themselves. Without prejudice to obligations arising under applicable Union and international law, Member States shall endeavour to provide for joint procedures, particularly with regard to the assessment of environmental impacts.
- 6. The single competent authority may also be entrusted with tasks related to the coordination and the authorisation, in compliance with Union and national legislation, of specific projects of common interest aiming at the reconstruction of infrastructure on the core network of the trans-European transport network in the case of natural or man-made disasters.**

Article 6

Duration and implementation of the permit granting procedure

1. The permit granting procedure shall consist of the pre-application phase and the phase of the assessment of the application and the decision-making by the single competent authority.
2. The pre-application phase, covering the period from the start of the permit granting procedure to the submission of the complete application file to the single competent authority, shall in principle not exceed [two] years.

2(a) The pre-application phase shall include the preparation of any environmental reports to be prepared by the project promoter. Preliminary studies and preparatory assessments may nevertheless start or be carried out before the pre-application phase to ensure the maturity of the notified project.

3. In order to launch the permit granting procedure, the project promoter shall notify the single competent authority of the Member States concerned about the project in writing, and shall include a detailed description of the project. No later than [...] **three** months following the receipt of the above notification, the single competent authority shall either acknowledge it or, if it considers that the project is not mature enough to enter the permit granting procedure, reject the notification in writing. If the single competent authority decides to reject the notification, it shall justify its decision. The date of signature of the acknowledgement of the notification by the competent authority shall serve as the start of the permit granting procedure. If two or more Member States are concerned, the date of the acceptance of the last notification by the competent authority concerned shall serve as the date of the start of the permit granting procedure.
4. Within three months of the start of the permit granting procedure, the single competent authority, in close cooperation with the project promoter and other authorities concerned and taking into account the information submitted by the project promoter on the basis of the notification referred to in paragraph 3, shall [...] **provide** the project promoter **with** a detailed application outline, containing:
- (a) the material scope and level of detail of information to be submitted by the project promoter, as part of the application file for the [...] **consolidated** decision
 - (b) a schedule for the permit granting process, identifying at least the following:
 - (i) the **permits**, decisions and opinions to be obtained;
 - (ii) the authorities[...] **and** stakeholders [...] to be concerned, **including the formal phase of the public consultation**;
 - (iii) the individual stages of the procedure and their [...] **expected time limits**;
 - (iv) major milestones to be accomplished and their deadlines in view of the [...] **consolidated** decision to be taken;
 - (v) the resources planned by the authorities and possible additional resource needs.

5. In order to ensure that the application file is complete and of adequate quality, the project promoter shall seek the single competent authority's opinion on its application as early as possible during the pre-application procedure. The project promoter shall cooperate fully with the single competent authority to meet deadlines and comply with the detailed application outline as defined in paragraph 4.
6. The project promoter shall submit the application file based on the detailed application outline within the period of [...] **24** months from the receipt of that detailed application outline. **The single competent authority, based on the characteristics of the project, analyses to be made or public to be consulted, in duly justified cases can determine a longer period for the submission of the application file.** After the expiry of [...] **the period for the submission of the application file**, the detailed application outline is no longer considered applicable, unless the single competent authority decides to prolong that period, on the basis of a justified request from the project promoter.
7. At the latest within the period of two months from the date of submission of the complete application file, the competent authority shall acknowledge in writing the completeness of the application file and communicate it to the project promoter. The application file submitted by the project promoter shall be considered as being complete, unless, within the period of two months from the date of submission, the competent authority makes a request regarding missing information to be submitted by the project promoter. That request shall be limited, as regards the material scope and level of detail, to the elements identified in the detailed application outline. Any additional request for information shall only result from exceptional and unforeseen new circumstances and shall be duly justified by the single competent authority.
8. The single competent authority shall assess the application and adopt a [...] **consolidated** decision within the period of one year from the date of submission of the complete application file in accordance with paragraph 7. Member States may set an earlier time-limit, where appropriate.

9. The time limits in the above provisions shall be without prejudice to obligations arising from Union and international legal acts, as well as to administrative appeal procedures and judicial remedies before a court or tribunal.

Article 7

Coordination of cross-border permit granting procedure

1. For projects that involve two or more Member States, the competent authorities of the Member States concerned shall align their timetables and agree on a joint schedule.
2. The European Coordinator referred to in Article 45 of Regulation (EU)² No 1315/2013 shall be empowered to [...] facilitate contacts between the involved competent authorities **in the context of the permit granting procedure for cross-border projects of common interest**.
3. Without prejudice to the obligation to comply with the time limits under this Regulation, if the time-limit for the [...] **consolidated** decision is not observed, [...] **the European Coordinator concerned shall be informed by the Member States** concerned about the measures taken or to be taken to conclude the permit granting procedure with the least possible delay. The European Coordinator may request the competent authority to regularly report on progress achieved.

CHAPTER III PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Article 8

Public Procurement in cross-border projects of common interest

1. Public procurement in cross-border projects of common interest shall be conducted in accordance with the Treaty and Directives 2014/25/EU and/or 2014/24/EU.
2. In case the procurement procedures are conducted by a joint entity set up by the participating Member States, that entity shall apply the national provisions of one of those Member States and, by way of derogation from these Directives, those provisions shall be the provisions determined in accordance with point (a) of Article 57(5) of Directive 2014/25/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council or point (a) of Article 39(5) of Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, as applicable, unless an agreement between the participating Member States provides otherwise. Such an agreement shall in any case provide for the application of a single national legislation in case of the procurement procedures conducted by a joint entity.

CHAPTER IV TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Article 9

Technical assistance

On the request of a project promoter or Member State, in accordance with the relevant Union funding programmes and without prejudice to the Multi-Annual Financial Framework, the Union shall make available technical assistance for the implementation of this Regulation and the facilitation of the implementation of projects of common interest.

CHAPTER V FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 10

Transitional provisions

This Regulation shall not apply to the [...] **permit granting** procedures which started before the date of its entry into force.

Article 11

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Chapter II of this Regulation shall apply from 1 January 2021. Ongoing procurement procedures will be completed on the basis of the legal position applicable on 31 December 2020.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament *For the Council*

The President *The President*
