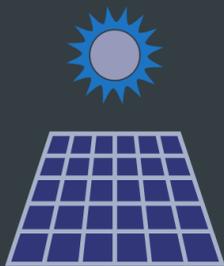


# Bird & Bird

COVID-19 – A panoramic view  
of measures to protect the Clean  
Energy sector around the world



May 2020

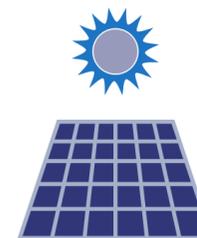
# Introduction

The worldwide spread of Covid-19 impacts severely the renewable energy sector.

Covid-19 led first to long delays relating to products and energy systems imported from China. Then, the global trade slowdown resulted in an overall stop of most renewable energy projects.

Bird and Bird wishes to keep companies posted on the recent support measures implemented in various jurisdictions. To us, this work aims at providing all stakeholders with a clear view on the market protections mechanisms proposed by States.

In order to secure the projects, industry leaders and unions have proposed numerous measures to protect and support the renewables sector. Some of these measures have been implemented by governments. We decided to also provide you with some comments related to each market. We hope this guide may be of some use for you and your projects and remain at your disposal, should you want from us any details or information on the below information. As measures are updated almost every day, we will update the table and this might sometimes not be fully up to date.



# Australia

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p>The Clean Energy Council and the Australia Institute are lobbying governments to make renewable energy and energy storage a key part of the Covid-19 response packages. Their recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governments to directly fund the installation of solar on public housing and low-income rental housing;</li> <li>• Governments to roll out rooftop solar and storage backup for all critical state infrastructure;</li> <li>• Government to add to its instant asset write-off relief by including a new rebate for solar batteries for homes and businesses;</li> <li>• State and territory governments to rollout rooftop solar and batteries for schools, childcare facilities, police stations and other government buildings;</li> <li>• Governments to accelerate and increase funding for the installation of microgrids, stand-alone power systems, community batteries and other programs for bushfire recovery; and</li> <li>• Governments to implement the Australian Energy Market Operator's Integrated System Plan to support large-scale renewable energy and energy storage projects</li> <li>• Industry bodies including the Clean Energy Council, the Smart Energy Council and the Energy Efficiency Council have postponed</li> </ul>	<p>The Australian Parliament recently passed the Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus Act 2020, which is designed to provide an economic response to the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on Australia by stimulating and supporting economic activity. The renewable industry is likely to be a beneficiary of the measures enacted, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary relief for directors from any personal liability for trading while insolvent;</li> <li>• Temporary relief from insolvency laws, including increasing the threshold for serving statutory demands and relief under 'insolvent trading' provisions;</li> <li>• The Treasurer will be given a temporary instrument-making power in the Corporations Act 2001 to temporarily amend provisions of the Act to provide relief from specific obligations or to modify obligations to enable compliance with legal requirements during the crisis;</li> <li>• Providing up to \$100,000 to eligible small and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profits (i.e. with an aggregated annual turnover under \$50 million) to help with their cash flow</li> <li>• Tax relief for eligible businesses by increasing the instant asset write-off threshold from \$30,000 to \$150,000;</li> <li>• A time limited 15 month investment incentive (through to 30 June 2021) to support business investment and economic growth over the short term, by accelerating depreciation deductions;</li> <li>• Supporting small business to retain apprentices and trainees;</li> <li>• Setting aside \$1 billion to support the most significantly affected regions; and</li> </ul>	<p>Industry participants note that the Covid-19 pandemic is causing delays to approvals of new projects, for example a 200MW solar farm proposed to be constructed in Raywood, Victoria.</p> <p>With non-essential services increasingly shutting down, Ports Australia and Australia's stevedoring companies are calling for changes to the 1988 NSW Essential Services Act and the equivalent legislation in Victoria to designate stevedoring and the associated freight and marine services as essential services to protect global supply chains.</p>

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p>major energy events and conferences until later in the year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking action to ensure the flow of credit in the Australian economy.</li> </ul> <p>The Reserve Bank of Australia announced a term funding facility for the banking system providing banks with access to at least \$90 billion in funding at a fixed interest rate of 0.25 per cent and announced an easing in monetary policy by reducing the cash rate to 0.25 per cent.</p> <p>The COAG (Council of Australian Governments) Energy Council has formed a “National Coordination Mechanism” between federal and state energy ministers, bringing together government and industry leaders for weekly meetings to coordinate a response to the impact of COVID-19 on energy supplies, focusing on reliability, security and prices. Proposals include conducting a stocktake on fuel reserves and coordination of ministerial powers. At the 20 March 2020 meeting, Ministers agreed to rule changes to action the Integrated System Plan for the National Electricity Market (NEM) to facilitate transition of the system to lower emissions and more distributed generation. Ministers also requested changes to the National Electricity Rules, which would assist in the implementation of dedicated Renewable Energy Zones.</p> <p>On 24 March 2020 the COAG Energy Council endorsed proposals to improve transparency in the eastern and northern Australian gas markets, focusing on information gaps and asymmetries relating to gas and infrastructure prices, supply and availability of gas, gas demand, and infrastructure used to supply gas to end-markets.</p> <p>Presentation of the proposed Climate Change Bill by independent MP Zali Steggall has been deferred to a later date.</p>	

# Czech Republic

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p>ČEZ Distribuce proposed following supportive measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>operational measures to secure power generation and distribution of energy (adapted work shifts of employees, especially for those working in nuclear power plants, mandatory wearing of facemasks, mandatory body temperature measurement by the entrance to the call centres and power plants);</li> <li>planned outages of electricity were reduced;</li> <li>ČEZ Prodej (Households supplies) agreed with deferral of payments for up to 3 months and customers who are not able to pay their bills for electricity consumption will not be temporary cut off thereof; and</li> <li>ČEZ ESCO (Business supplies) will accept requests of business and wholesalers for deferral of payments.</li> </ul> <p>E.ON Distribuce proposed following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all planned outages of electricity were cancelled;</li> <li>visits of customers for the purposes of electric meters reading are temporary postponed.</li> </ul>	<p>On 27 April 2020, the Czech government has approved an amendment to the Act No 165/2012 Coll., on support of renewable sources of energies ("Proposal") that yet has to be approved by Parliament.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of the Proposal aims at a cost saving measure that seeks to reduce state support for local producers of solar electricity. The Internal Rate of Return ("IRR") was reduced to the 6.3%, which shall be the lowest possible rate, according to the Minister of Industry and Trade. The government expects to save costs amounting to CZK 7 – 10 billion (EUR 260 – 370 million).</li> <li>According to the Proposal, IRRs for other renewable sources of energy shall be set to the maximum allowed rates (<i>i.e.</i> IRR 7% for water, wind and geothermal power plants, IRR 9,5% for biomass power plants and IRR 10,6% for biogas).</li> </ul> <p>Energy Regulatory Office ("ERO"), as an administrative authority responsible for regulation in the energy sector adopted the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ERO has appealed on energy distributors and suppliers to take into consideration the COVID-19 pandemic situation that can cause problems to customers to pay their debts. However, customers shall solve their potential payment problems actively and communicate with suppliers.</li> <li>ERO is aware of the fact that business customers may not use all the reserved capacities due to the lower demand and closure of factories due to the COVID-19 pandemic</li> </ul>	<p>Chamber of Renewable Energy Sources criticizes the Proposal as it adopts discriminatory approach to the clean energy producers. Setting the IRR within the range from 6.3% to 10.6% for different clean energy sources is being seen as a "dangerous precedent" how can theoretically government control the renewable sector in the future. The Proposal is, on the other hand, appreciated for its ambition to restart the development of clean energy sector.</p> <p>CEPS (Czech Transmission System Operator) has announced that it has recorded lower power consumption, generation and load levels as a result of COVID-19 situation. The ongoing consumption decline has been observed since 9 March 2020, according to CEPS. The worst situation has been recorded during mid April (the drop in consumption was approximately around 20% in comparison with April 2019). The consumption reduction can be attributed primarily to interrupted operations in major industrial plants. Apart from the reduced consumption, lower power generation levels have been recorded. This is especially due to lower exports as power consumption has declined also in neighbouring countries. All of these factors led to a relative energy surplus.</p>

situation and related governmental anti-epidemics measures. Also in this case, ERO encourages suppliers to be co-operative in negotiations with their business customers.

- ERO has adopted price decision No. 2/2020 that seeks to allow business customers to flexibly adapt the amounts of reserved electricity supplies. The price decision is only temporary and will be in force only from April to June. However, ERO announced that it will monitor the situation and additional precautions can be adopted in the future.
- ERO announced that payment of sanctions might be postponed upon the request and instalment payment plan can also be agreed.

# Finland

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p>Currently, the main energy sector operators or authorities in Finland have not called for specific action in response to the impact of COVID-19 on the renewables market.</p>	<p>Currently, there are no Finnish government measures designed to specifically help the renewable energy industry.</p> <p>However the Finnish government has already implemented and proposed general measures to support businesses that have suffered disruption due to COVID-19, some of which might impact the renewables industry in Finland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Direct financial support to businesses applied through Business Finland (proposed amount 700 million euros) and Centers for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (proposed amount 300 million euros);</li><li>• Finnvera, a specialized financing company owned by the State of Finland, guarantees loans granted by private banks and its authority to finance SMEs and midcap companies has been increased to 12 billion euros;</li><li>• All major banks offer changes to repayment schedules, credit limits and/or working capital facilities according to the needs and circumstances of the company in question;</li><li>• The Finnish Tax Administration has launched a flexible payment arrangement for taxes in which the first instalment of the payment arrangement will fall due in three months after the arrangement has become active, as opposed to just one month;</li></ul> <p>Additionally according to a legislative amendment in progress, the rate of late-payment interest on taxes</p>	

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
	<p>included in a payment arrangement would be lowered from 7% to 4%. The lowered interest rate would only apply to taxes that are included in a payment arrangement and that fall due after 1 March 2020;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="817 391 1500 598">• The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has confirmed an exceptional provision to the terms and conditions of TyEL and YEL insurance policies, which gives pension insurance companies the possibility to extend, upon request, the payment period for insurance contributions by an additional 3 months without any penalty interest; and</li> <li data-bbox="817 638 1500 726">• Tesi, an investment company owned by the State of Finland, has launched a financing program (amount 150 million euros) for medium-sized companies.</li> </ul>	

# France

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p>Requests have been formulated FEE (Union for the Wind farm sector) and the SER (Union of the actors of the renewable energy sector):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by the to push back the delays of certain tender procedure for solar plants to November 2020</li> <li>• allow the principle of late connection of plants</li> <li>• allow the import of components from countries concerned by the Covid-19</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to facilitate the administrative management, additional deadlines for the grid connection/construction/.and commissioning will be granted for all producers, regardless of the support mechanism or technology</li> <li>• Adjustment of the onshore wind tender schedule for the 6th period (in progress)</li> </ul> <p>Candidates for the current tender procedure for solar plants will thus have the opportunity to submit their bids until 1st July (for 1/3 of the volume called) as planned and until 1 November (for 2/3 of the volume called).</p> <p><b>Ordinance No. 2020-306 dated 25 March 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspension of the delays required for the performance of controls or works in compliance with an administrative authorisation.</li> <li>• Additional delays for administrative authorisations, which will soon expire.</li> <li>• Suspension of ongoing environmental public inquiries (except for emergency project or project of national significance) /postponement of future public inquiries.</li> </ul> <p><b>General provisions applicable to the renewable energy sector</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postponement of the producers and developers'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The postponed dates for the solar Tender procedure are as follows for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Soil solar photovoltaic (PV): (1/3) – 3 July 2020; (2/3) – 3 November 2020</li> <li>– PV solar power in Fessenheim: 30 September 2020</li> <li>– PV buildings: 6 September 2020</li> <li>– Innovative solar PV: 3 June 2020</li> <li>– Non-interconnected area solar PV: 12 August 2020</li> <li>– Self-consumption: 18 July 2020</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Some developers and producers warn the sector that the Covid-19 situation will slow down the construction (due to the postponement of many administrative proceedings) and the commissioning of many projects.</li> <li>• On 23 March 2020, the energy consumption in France dropped by 15 % in comparison to the previous month.</li> </ul>

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
	<p>obligation to pay tax and social security expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State guarantee of up to EUR 300 billion for all bank loans of companies</li> <li>• BPI France (State owned French development bank) guarantees the lenders up to 90%, provided the developers or producers have a loan contract with a duration from 3 to 7 years</li> <li>• BPI France offers an unsecured loan over 3 to 5 years of 10,000 to 5 million euros for small and mid-sized companies, with significant delay regarding credit repayment</li> <li>• Suspension of payment for developers or developers of loan maturities granted by BPI France from 16 March 2020</li> </ul>	

# Germany

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p><b>German Renewable Energy Federation (“BEE”)</b></p> <p><i>Recommendations for action and necessary regulatory needs for the renewable energy sector in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic (24 April 2020)</i></p> <p>BEE states that the far-reaching social constraints in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic are causing considerable uncertainty for manufacturers, suppliers and project planners. Supply and personnel bottlenecks as well as legal uncertainties lead to delays in the realization of important new projects and to considerable risks in the operation of renewable energy plants. These considerably aggravate the problems already existing before the crisis with regard to the framework conditions for renewable energies. The renewable energy sector is an important economic factor that is currently under high threat. The interactions with measures to overcome the Covid 19 crisis, a generally too slow pace of expansion as well as partly restrictive framework conditions in operation add up and lead in the long run to considerably higher losses of jobs and value creation in Germany.</p> <p>The requests of BEE are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extend the implementation period and penalties for new RE installations in a legally secure</li> </ul>	<p><b>Act on Digitalization of planning and approval procedures (Draft of 29 April 2020)</b></p> <p>The Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) have submitted the draft of a Planning Security Act to the Cabinet of the German government, where it was adopted on 29 April 2020. The Act is intended to ensure that a large number of important projects do not come to a standstill or even fail due to the COVID 19 pandemic.</p> <p>Many planning and approval procedures require the physical presence of people, for example when documents are inspected or discussions take place, and therefore cannot be carried out as usual. The Act therefore introduces - limited in time until 31 March 2021 - alternative possibilities for such procedural steps. In particular, the possibilities of the internet are to be used for this purpose.</p> <p>Insofar as such procedural steps, such as the customary local or public announcement of projects or the interpretation of plans, cannot be dispensed with, it should largely be possible to carry them out via the internet. In addition, however, publication of the essential documents and decisions as well as the exercise of procedural rights in the classical, analogous sense will be retained in order not to exclude anyone from participation opportunities.</p> <p><b>Amendments to the EEG planned - Extension of implementation deadlines (Draft of 29 April</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association of Municipal Corporations (“VKU” – March 2020):</li> </ul> <p>VKU appreciates the decision of the German Parliament to mitigate the consequences of COVID-19. A quick check of its member companies has shown that there are currently no longer any interruptions in the supply of electricity, gas and water to private households and commercial companies in the event of payment arrears. <li>• Market comment by energy consulting firm:</li> <p>With regard to the planned protection of customers against electricity and gas network failures, a consulting firm warns of liquidity bottlenecks. Accordingly, Energy supply companies will be obliged to fulfil energy supply contracts with their customers - even if they do not receive any consideration from their customer for the duration of a right to refuse performance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEO of E.ON SE (25 March 2020):</li> </ul> <p>E.ON’s CEO, Johannes Teyssen, confirmed that the company, together with other utilities, supported the declaration of the German energy</p> </p></p>

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p>manner;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adjust the start of compensation for onshore wind;</li> <li>• mitigate risks from potential substrate undersupply in bioenergy plants;</li> <li>• ensure freedom of movement for service and maintenance personnel;</li> <li>• suspend degression and abolish solar caps; and</li> <li>• grid connection: deadline extension for existing installations within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2016/631 - NC RfG.</li> </ul> <p><b>German Wind Energy Association (“BWE”)</b></p> <p><i>Request to municipalities to ensure work of municipal councils despite COVID-19 (16 April 2020)</i></p> <p>BWE requests municipalities to ensure the work of their councils despite COVID-19. The continuous work of the councils is important for the issuance of land development plans and urban development contracts.</p> <p><i>Request to ensure international construction and maintenance staff to be allowed to travel to Germany without the immediate need of quarantine (16 April 2020)</i></p> <p>BWE requests that international construction and maintenance staff shall be allowed to travel to Germany without the immediate need of quarantine. The same shall apply to German staff after their return to Germany from performing works abroad. Such staff is in the view of BWE important to safeguard the critical and systemic energy infrastructure.</p>	<p><b>2020)</b></p> <p>On 29 April 2020, the German government adopted amendments to the EEG. Among other things, the planned amendment provides for an extension of the implementation period for tendering plants with a contract awarded before 1 March 2020 by six months due to the corona crisis. This draft bill is to be passed by the Bundestag in an expedited procedure.</p> <p><b>Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy (BMWi) and Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF) - 2 billion euro package of measures for start-ups (30 April 2020)</b></p> <p>The Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy and the Federal Ministry of Finance together with the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and KfW Capital have worked out the details of the package of measures in recent weeks. The EUR 2 billion package of measures is intended to specifically address start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises with a sustainable business model.</p> <p>The package of measures is based on 2 pillars:</p> <p><i>Pillar 1 the so-called Corona Matching Facility:</i></p> <p>On the one hand, venture capital funds will be provided with the additional public funds via the new Corona Matching Facility, so that investors can finance highly innovative and promising start-ups even during the corona crisis. This is intended to ensure that even young companies can continue on their growth path in the current phase. Through the Corona Matching Facility, the existing cooperation with public partners, such as KfW Capital and the European Investment Fund, will be used to quickly make public funds available to start-ups via venture capital funds.</p> <p><i>Pillar 2 for start-ups and small SMEs (without access to</i></p>	<p>associations to suspend the shutdowns of customers who are in particular financial distress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenpeace (13 March 2020):</li> </ul> <p>Greenpeace is calling for a “Marshallplan”. An expertise of the Forum for Ecological and Social Market Economy (“FÖS”) for Greenpeace proposes, for example, that the cap on the expansion of solar installations should be lifted or that private investments in the energy efficiency of buildings be promoted. In this way, the Federal Government creates orders for the economy and, thus, secures jobs. The low oil price should be used to reduce climate-damaging subsidies such as the diesel privilege and thus secure funding to combat the crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juwi AG (March 2020):</li> </ul> <p>The renewable energy project developer Juwi AG is expecting delays from suppliers in the wind and solar sectors and delays in the project implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enertrag AG (March 2020):</li> </ul> <p>The energy service provider Enertrag is calling on the German government to relax the central regulatory requirements in order not to restrict the expansion of renewable energies. It is necessary to ensure an extension of the implementation period for wind energy projects in a timely manner.</p>

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p><i>Paper on COVID-19 (revised April 2020)</i></p> <p>Currently, the further growth of wind in Germany is already slowed down, irrespective of the current COVID-19 situation (especially regards onshore wind). To avoid a further slowdown of new wind projects, BWE proposes various solutions presented in a paper on COVID-19. BWE analyses and proposes solutions for all phases of a wind project, e.g. regarding the permitting, the construction and the operation. Amongst BWE's proposals to cover the term of the COVID-19 situation are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permitting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Land-use plans ("Flächennutzungspläne") and permits shall be presented digitally, instead of physically;</li> <li>– Public hearings as part of the BImSchG permitting process shall be dispensable (e.g. by revision of BImSchG).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Construction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Revise the statutes so that the terms set by the auction regimes can be extended by the German Federal Network Agency ("BNetzA" - §§ 85 para. 2, § 36e para. 2 No. 3 EEG 2017);</li> <li>– Suspend penalty provisions (§ 55 para. 1 EEG 2017);</li> <li>– Delay/postpone start of market premium period (§ 36i EEG).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>German Association of Energy and Water Industries ("BDEW") and German Solar Energy Association ("BSW")</b></p>	<p><i>pillar 1):</i></p> <p>For start-ups and small SMEs that do not have access to the Corona Matching Facility, further ways of securing their financing will be opened up. To this end, there will be close cooperation with the countries, including cooperation with national companies.</p> <p>For more details see (in German): <a href="https://bit.ly/2zLgF5X">https://bit.ly/2zLgF5X</a></p> <p><b>Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy (BMWi) - federal contact point established for securing cross-border supply chains (27 April 2020)</b></p> <p>The Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy has set up a "contact point for supply chain security". The aim is to ensure that the production and delivery of required supplier products is restored where possible.</p> <p>The Supply Chain Contact Point serves as the Federal Government's central contact point for companies. The contact point deals with problems in the manufacture and supply of supplier products as well as with the general supply of raw materials. In addition, a communication and solution network has been established with federal ministries, state economics ministries and associations in order to be able to act promptly and on a case-by-case basis and to exchange experiences quickly.</p> <p>Companies can contact the email address <a href="mailto:kontaktstelle-lieferketten@bmwi.bund.de">kontaktstelle-lieferketten@bmwi.bund.de</a> if they have problems in connection with international supply chains.</p> <p><b>Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy (BMWi) and Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF) - Protective shield of the Federal Government for small and medium-sized enterprises (6/14 April 2020)</b></p> <p>The KfW Quick Loan was launched on 15 April 2020 as</p>	

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/Staates	Market comments
<p><i>Position Paper - How a clean and secure energy supply drives the economy (17 April 2020)</i></p> <p>BDEW positions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the interests of a future-proof energy supply, the energy system transformation must remain a top priority on the political agenda.</li> <li>• The energy sector can and will be part of the economic revival after COVID-19.</li> <li>• Digitization and digital infrastructures are central innovation drivers of the energy industry.</li> <li>• European cohesion must be maintained right now, the European cooperation will be strengthened.</li> <li>• The politically set objectives must be maintained. Continuity is essential for long-term investments being effective.</li> </ul> <p>BDEW proposes the following plan of 5 items:</p> <p>(1) New impetus for climate-friendly technologies</p> <p>(2) Release the restraints: jobs and value creation through accelerated expansion of renewable energies and grids</p> <p>(3) Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises: invest wisely and sustainably</p> <p>(4) Improve procedures, use digitisation</p> <p>(5) Stronger together: supporting economic recovery in Europe with the European Green Deal</p>	<p>another important component of the Federal Government's comprehensive protective umbrella for small and medium-sized enterprises. Following the adoption of the programme on 6 April and the approval of the European Commission on 11 April under state aid law, the necessary steps have now been taken to implement the KfW Quick Loan at KfW and the main banks.</p> <p>The KfW Quick Loans for SMEs essentially comprise the following measures:</p> <p>Provided that the company has made a profit in the sum of the years 2017-2019 or in 2019, if it has only been on the market for a shorter period so far, this period is used, a "fast loan" is to be granted with the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The loan is available to medium-sized enterprises with more than 10 employees that have been active on the market at least since 1 January 2019.</li> <li>• The loan volume per company is up to 25 per cent of the total turnover in 2019, a maximum of EUR 800,000 for companies with more than 50 employees, a maximum of EUR 500,000 for companies with up to 50 employees.</li> <li>• The company must not have been in difficulty on 31 December 2019 and must be in an orderly financial situation at that date.</li> <li>• On request, up to 2 grace years at the beginning to reduce the short-term burden.</li> <li>• The bank receives a 100 percent indemnity from KfW, secured by a guarantee from the Federal Government.</li> <li>• The loan is approved without further credit risk assessment by the bank or KfW. Collateral is not provided. This allows the loan to be approved quickly.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, there are improvements in already existing</p>	

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p><i>Request to cancel solar cap (23 March 2020)</i></p> <p>BDEW and BSW as well as 2,000 companies demand that the 52-gigawatt subsidy cap for the construction of new solar roofs should be cancelled immediately in order to avoid a stop of expansion.</p> <p>As a result of COVID-19, photovoltaic solar parks are at risk of losing eligibility. Therefore, BDEW, BSW and the signing companies are calling for the German Federal Government to extend the implementation deadlines for solar parks within the framework of the EEG auctions and to impose penalties only in the event of longer delays.</p> <p>In view of the continuing high level of interest in the tenders of the German Federal Network Agency (“BNetzA”), the German Federal Government should increase the photovoltaic expansion targets from the current level of around 2.5 gigawatts per year to 10 gigawatts.</p> <p><b>Energy Efficiency Association for heating, cooling and CHP (“AGFW”) (March 2020)</b></p> <p>AGFW emphasizes that if the current COVID-19 situation continues for a longer period, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure the security of supply of district heating. To this end, the industry is in the view of AGFW dependent on state support.</p> <p>AGFW has issued a catalogue of demands to the federal and state governments which includes special permits for external personnel from abroad or exceptions to the Working Hours Act.</p>	<p>KfW special programmes. These consist in extending the term of the loan from up to five to up to six years, and even up to 10 years for loans of up to EUR 800,000. In addition, the assumption of a positive forecast for the continuation of operations is based on the assumption that the companies had sound financial circumstances as at the reporting date of 31 December 2019.</p> <p>For more details see <a href="https://bit.ly/3bUdl6P">https://bit.ly/3bUdl6P</a>.</p> <p><b>Set of measures by Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy as well as BNetzA – special measures to support companies in the energy sector (since March 2020)</b></p> <p>Together with BNetzA, the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy has developed a solution for the case that a planned renewable energy project which is eligible for the EEG market premium cannot be constructed within the specified implementation period due to COVID-19.</p> <p>In the case of onshore wind energy plants and biomass plants, for example, an extension of the statutory implementation period is granted by BNetzA upon informal application (for details in German see <a href="https://bit.ly/3bxX2Ma">https://bit.ly/3bxX2Ma</a> and <a href="https://bit.ly/2UJ61Ue">https://bit.ly/2UJ61Ue</a>).</p> <p>In the case of solar plants, it shall be permissible to already apply for the EEG market premium entitlement even before the plant is commissioned, provided that the plant is registered as a project in the core energy market data register (“Marktstammdatenregister”), so that the award as a result of the auction does not expire (for details see in German <a href="https://bit.ly/2UJ61Ue">https://bit.ly/2UJ61Ue</a>).</p> <p><b>Notes of German Federal Network Agency (“BNetzA” – see in German <a href="https://bit.ly/2Uvo1iZ">https://bit.ly/2Uvo1iZ</a> - March 2020)</b></p>	

## Actions proposed by industries leaders

## Actions confirmed by governments/States

## Market comments

BNetzA has informed on the following situation and measures for current and future tenders:

- Auction deadlines: no prolongation.
- Auction dates: There may be delays by BNetzA (stated reason: presence of several persons in one room is necessary) – after checking and ranking it is clear which bids will be accepted:
  - successful bidders will receive a written assurance that they will be awarded the contract;
  - excluded bidders will be informed as usual;
  - bidders who are not awarded a contract on the basis of the value offered will also be informed;
  - securities that are no longer required will be paid out.

The award decision itself will not initially be announced on the internet. This means that the terms/deadlines (concerning, among other things, penalties, realisation period and payment of the second collateral) will not start to run. This will only be made up for once the situation has calmed down. Exceptions will be made for existing biomass plants for which a contract has been awarded and for bidders who wish to receive individual advance publication (an informal application must be submitted).

- Publications: The figures on the quantity of bids received and the highest and lowest bid value, the awarded bids, are published. In the case of invitations to tender in which solar systems can participate, the amount of bids received for arable and grassland areas will also be published. The figures for the grid expansion area for onshore wind energy are also updated.

## Actions proposed by industries leaders

## Actions confirmed by governments/Staates

## Market comments

- Deadlines for the implementation of bids already awarded:
  - Onshore wind and biomass: Extension of the implementation period for bids for onshore wind energy and biomass will be granted on informal application without bureaucracy. Applications can be submitted by e-mail and must include the reasons that led to a delay in the project.
  - Solar: In the case of solar, it is possible to apply for a payment entitlement until further notice before the system is put into operation if the planned system is entered as a project in the Market Master Data Register, so that the award does not lapse. When applying for payment authorisation, the reasons that have led to a delay in the project must be stated.
  - There is currently no need for action regarding the surcharges for CHP plants due to the longer implementation periods. However, the situation will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

Penalties: For surcharges for onshore wind turbines and for biomass plants, penalties are actually due after the original implementation period has expired, irrespective of the extension of the implementation period. However, in the case of surcharges extended in accordance with the above-mentioned procedure, BNetzA will not notify the transmission system operators accordingly until further notice, so that no fines can be levied.

# Hungary

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p>To support the measures taken by Hungary's government such as employees working from home, companies in the electricity sector announced their supportive measures.</p> <p>National Utilities Ltd.(NKM) has announced to close its customer service points and has decided to suspend the personal reading of the power and natural gas meters. Also announced to suspend the disconnection of the service for any retail customer due to long term account debt for an indefinite time.</p> <p>E.On and ELMŰ ÉMÁSZ have also closed their customer service points, suspended the personal reading of the power meters and announced a disconnection moratorium until further notice.</p>	<p>Hungary's government announced initial measures to protect the economy from the effect of COVID-19. Among them were moratoriums on payment of principal, interest and fees on all corporate and retail loans until the end of the year.</p> <p>Furthermore, a government action group was set up to manage the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in Hungary and this action group identified companies "of key importance to the operation of the country". The 71 state- and privately-owned companies and entities have now started working with delegates of the defence ministry helping coordination efforts. The companies and organizations on the list include MVM Paksi Atomerőmű, the operator of the Paks nuclear power plant and energy company MOL.</p>	<p>The Hungarian Energy Authority (HEA) issued a statement to call on users of energy and utilities to use telephone and online services wherever possible to stay in contact with the service providers.</p> <p>The awarded tenderers of the green premium support tender (METÁR tender) are expected to be announced 27 March 2020, this date has not been postponed yet.</p>

# India

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
	<p>The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has clarified that delays in implementing renewable energy projects due to disruption of supply chain arising from spread of Coronavirus in China or other countries would be treated as a force majeure event and project developers can seek extensions by making applications to relevant implementing agencies.</p>	

# Italy

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p><b>Elettricità Futura - Letter to the Ministry of Economic Development dated 23 March 2020</b></p> <p>Elettricità Futura sent a letter to the Ministry of Economic Development, Arera, Terna and GSE in which it pointed out the difficulties that member companies are experiencing due to the health emergency in progress. These are the most important:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The need to extend the deadlines for fulfilling the Energy Efficiency Certificates (EEI) obligations, including greater flexibility of access to virtual securities;</li><li>• Redefinition of deadlines for obtaining authorizations;</li><li>• Postponement of the deadlines for access to the incentives provided by Decree Fer 1 concerning the renewable sector.</li></ul>	<p><b>Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 22 March 2020</b></p> <p>The President of the Council of Ministers has introduced new measures, with the "Lockdown Italy" decree in force from today, including a stop to non-essential production activities. All activities aimed at ensuring the supply of essential goods such as electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning remain permitted.</p> <p>The realization, maintenance and operation of energy plants can be considered as activities expressly permitted being aimed at ensuring the supply of essential goods.</p> <p>Functional activities to ensure the continuity of the supply chains (even if not expressly listed) are permitted as well upon delivery of a proper notice to the competent Prefecture, provided that the Prefecture will be entitled to halt the continuity of the relevant activities if not deemed as "functional".</p>	<p><b>GSE Notice 16 March 2020</b></p> <p>The GSE has suspended until 30 April 2020 all deadlines and deadlines in the proceedings relating to renewable sources and energy efficiency measures. The GSE has established, informing the Ministry of Economic Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the suspension of the terms of the ongoing verification procedures on plants powered by renewable sources and energy efficiency measures, including high-efficiency cogeneration;</li><li>• the extension of deadlines for all administrative procedures in relation to requests for document integration.</li></ul> <p>Please note that this extension applies if more favourable of the general extension of administrative procedure deadlines introduced by Decree Law 18/2020.</p>
<p><b>ANEV- press release of 23 March 2020</b></p> <p>The National Wind Energy Association has requested a suspension of at least six months of all deadlines and concerning renewable energy plants (with particular reference to the procedures for authorizations, grid connections and obtaining incentives), so as to allow the continuity of initiatives and not penalize operators during the coronavirus emergency.</p>	<p><b>Decree-Law No 18 of 17 March 2020</b></p> <p>Italian government has started to implement various measures to support certain companies, facilitating their access to credit.</p> <p>According to article 56, in fact, micro, small and medium-sized companies can benefit from the following financial support measures in relation to debt exposures towards banks and financial</p>	<p>ARERA - Resolution 17 March 2020 75/2020/R/com</p>

## Actions proposed by industries leaders

## Actions confirmed by governments/States

## Market comments

intermediaries:

- revocable credits on bank account (apertura di credito a revoca) and credit facilities granted against advances on receivables existing on 29 February 2020 or, if subsequent, on the date of publication of the Law Decree, the amounts granted, cannot be revoked in whole or in part until 30 September 2020;
- bullet loans having contractual maturity before 30 September 2020, are extended to 30 September 2020 on the same terms and conditions;
- payment of credit facilities and leasing instalments is suspended until 30 September 2020, and the relevant repayment schedule is deferred in a manner that ensures the absence of new or greater charges for both parties.

To support the liquidity of enterprises affected by the epidemiological emergency, forms of public guarantee are also provided in order to facilitate the grant of loans to companies that have suffered a reduction in turnover.

Moreover, in accordance with Article 103, it is provided for:

- the suspension of all terms for all administrative procedures pending on 23 February 2020 or commenced after that date up to 15 April 2020;
- the extension of the validity, until 15 June 2020, of all certificates, attestations, permits, concessions, authorizations and enabling acts, however named, expiring between 31 January and 15 April 2020.

**Actions proposed by industries leaders****Actions confirmed by governments/States****Market comments**

Finally, it is also worth mentioning Article 125, paragraph 1 of the Decree-Law, which extends by 6 months (from 15 May to 15 November 2020) the deadline for the completion of works for the implementation of energy efficiency and sustainable territorial development in small municipalities.

# Poland

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p>The minimum proposals by the Polish Solar Energy Association (the most active industry organization for PV sector in Poland) is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To extend the statutory 24-month deadline (counting from CfD award) to complete development (and construction) and commence sale of energy - by at least 6 months (to 30 months minimum). This extension should apply to projects that were awarded CfD in 2018 and 2019 (and possibly apply to future CfD rounds, too);</li><li>• To abolish the requirement of power generation licensing (which is currently required to lawfully become part of the CfD support system) and substitute this requirement with much simplified procedures of entry to the so-called register of „producers of energy in small RES installations”. Currently, said register covers only installations with installed capacity of up to 500 kWp. Polish Solar Energy Association proposes that this limit be increased to 1 MWp so that majority of „small” PV installations that compete in CfD auctions (except for the big utility-scale projects, but these should be subject to licensing in any case) can be exempt from the burdensome power generation licensing requirements and the related lengthy procedures</li></ul>	<p>For now, it seems the government will include, in their special COVID legislation, the right of extension of the statutory 24-month deadline (counting from CfD award) to complete development (and construction) and commence sale of energy - by up to 12 months. However, it also seems that this 12-month extension will only be permissible if the applicant is able to evidence delays in supplies of equipment.</p>	<p>It seems that the delay-triggered extension right may not be sufficient for the industry.</p> <p>Delays, at this point in time and considering how advanced the impact of COVID-19 on national markets is, are pretty obvious.</p> <p>The government may need to consider some “hard” extensions for the entire industry. Also, a number of simplifications (e.g. abolishment of power generation licensing, clarification that no permits of use are required for certain types of installations, e.g. PV of up to 1 MW) may need to follow, too.</p>

# Singapore

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p>The power industry in Singapore in terms of (i) generation and supply and (ii) energy management, appear, in comparison to other industries, not the most heavily impacted by the COVID-19.</p> <p>The power sector already harnesses a broad range of innovative digital solutions, inclusive of use of smart technology and intelligent energy management systems. The COVID containment measures and the lockdown of neighbouring countries (such as Malaysia, which has just extended its lockdown to 14 April) have the worst impact on companies which are heavily reliant on manpower and foreign labour.</p> <p>The power sector did not report any major disruptions and did not appear to have taken a direct hit from the COVID outbreak.</p> <p>There were no concerted efforts by the industry to seek government grants or to lobby for mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Singapore is in the midst of a lockdown, which is targeted to expire in the beginning of June 2020.</p> <p>While parliament has issued an unprecedented 3 rounds of economic stimulus since the beginning of the year, there are no specific measures targeting the RE and EE industry.</p> <p>Industry players can benefit from various government schemes aimed at all businesses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25% cash grant of up to the first S\$4,600 gross monthly salary for each local employee (applicable only to Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents) for the months of October 2019 to December 2019, February to March 2020 and June to July 2020. The cash grant is raised to 75% for the month of April and May 2020 for all businesses.</li> <li>• Foreign worker levy rebate of S\$750 per month for the months of April and May 2020, for all foreign workers with work permit or S-pass visas.</li> <li>• 1 year temporary bridge loans for certain eligible enterprises of all industry sectors to borrow up to S\$5 million, with the interest rate capped at 5% p.a.</li> <li>• Waiver of requirement to hold Board of</li> </ul>	<p>In 2019, Singapore's annual system demand and system peak demand was projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 1.5-2.1%. System demand refers to gross electricity generation, including auto producers with their own generation and consumers with solar generation, required to meet electricity consumed by all consumers. The power industry is coping well with COVID-19 but there will likely be a substantial decline in industrial production leading to a drop in demand.</p> <p>Local markets are heartened that green bonds were launched recently at favourable rates in spite of COVID-19.  <a href="https://www.energylivenews.com/2020/04/03/e-on-issues-e750m-green-bond/">https://www.energylivenews.com/2020/04/03/e-on-issues-e750m-green-bond/</a></p> <p>ESG stocks also did well in the COVID-10 slump, giving clean energy players a boost in confidence and outlook.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gbm.hsbc.com/insights/global-research/esg-stocks-did-best-in-corona-slump">https://www.gbm.hsbc.com/insights/global-research/esg-stocks-did-best-in-corona-slump</a></p> <p>The global fall in oil prices is expected to reduce the cost of electricity generated by fossil fuels. This may reduce uptake of RE, particularly solar, in the retail market. There is an overall industry push to enhance the frameworks and awareness for clean energy, sustainability and energy transition so that Singapore</p>

Directors meeting in Singapore for corporate tax residence status for FY 2021, where inability is due to travel restriction imposed relating to COVID-19.

- Higher threshold for corporate insolvency proceedings.
- Where personal attendance at any meetings is required by law or legal instrument, such as annual general meeting, alternative electronic communication will be accepted.

For RE and EE projects under construction, special provision has also been made under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act of 2020 to allow for relief from obligations and construction timelines where delays are materially caused by COVID-19 and its impact on the economy.

does not backslide on its carbon reduction commitments.

We have also observed solar generators issuing notice to project financiers of expected delays in the commissioning of upcoming solar projects.

# Slovak Republic

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p>In coordination with the government, the Slovak critical infrastructure companies in energy sector are preparing for the crisis situation, i.e. they are allocating reserve workers, preparing backup workplaces, implementing strict regimes for employees, e.g. health screening of employees at the entrance to premises (e.g. Slovenske elektrarne company), cancelling work travels abroad, minimizing the personal contact with customers in customer's centers, isolating critical employees from the others, cancelling the planned energy outages (Energy distribution companies).</p>	<p>In renewable energy sector, the dates of auctions (including subsidies for new power-plants) are postponed indefinitely.</p> <p>The Slovak government has proposed, in coordination with large business and economic associations, several measures mitigating the negative impact of current situation: - the financial injections will be prepared for chosen sectors; electricity price may be reduced to some businesses; deadline for filling the tax statements should be postponed for 3 months.</p>	<p>Due to the ongoing situation, the authorities require that business and institutions move to online / home-office regime as much as possible.</p> <p>Banks are preparing regimes to postpone the debt payments for wide variety of subjects and offer short-term loans.</p>

# Spain

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Naturgy, Iberdrola and Endesa temporarily suspend their collection of outstanding invoices from local authorities, autonomous communities and other government bodies.</li><li>• Endesa will not cut off the power due to non-payment of the electric bill during the state of alert to any of its clients.</li><li>• Iberdrola has launched an aid plan to facilitate payment of electricity, gas and other energy services bills of its clients (homes, SMEs and self-employed people) by splitting invoices up to 12 months.</li><li>• Naturgy will postpone the electricity and gas bills of SMEs and self-employed people that will be issued from now on during the second semester of the year.</li><li>• Red Eléctrica de España guarantees the electrical supply and reinforces the safety and isolation of its control centers. The company guarantees this service by having two autonomous electrical control centers operated by independent teams. Furthermore, as an additional measure, the company has set up a third control center. These three centers operate with full autonomy.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Article 17 of Royal Decree 463/2020 guarantees the supply of electric energy and oil and gas products.</li><li>• Article 18 of Royal Decree 463/2020 establishes that the entities or bodies responsible for investments or the day-to-day operation of facilities, networks and systems shall take the necessary measures to ensure the provision of essential services.</li><li>• Article 4 of the Royal Decree-Law 8/2020 guarantees the supply of water and energy to vulnerable consumers who are severely vulnerable or at risk of social exclusion and suspends the formula for the determination if the maximum sale price before tax of the liquefied petroleum gases.</li><li>• Royal Decree-Law 8/2020 includes a restriction on foreign direct investments in Spain. Prior governmental authorization will be required before carrying out foreign direct investment if they are made in any of the following ways:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– investments by investors from outside the EU or EFTA when the investor holds 10% or more of the share capital; or</li><li>– when as a consequence of the corporate</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The demand for electricity is down by more than 11%.</li><li>• Automotive fuel consumption falls by 41% and aviation fuel consumption by 64%.</li></ul>

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a consequence of Royal Decree 463/2020 and Royal Decree-Law 8/2020, the different energy market operators are reviewing the terms of their respective contracts (i.e. EPC. O&amp;M, distribution) in order to study the possibility of terminating the contract on the grounds of force majeure or the possibility of applying the rebus sic stantibus clause</li> </ul>	<p>operation in a legal act or business there is an effective participation in the management or control of the company.</p> <p>Furthermore, it suspends the regime of investment liberalization to be carried out in supply of energy. The regime of investment liberalization it is also suspended in foreign direct investments if the investor is controlled directly or indirectly by the government, including public bodies or the armed forces, of a third country</p>	

# The Netherlands

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p><b>Renewable energy projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parliamentary groups have requested the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate to grant renewable projects extra time for the construction period if they face supply issues due to COVID19;</li> <li>Sector organisations have requested the government to issue an additional subsidy, on top of the Investment Subsidy Renewable Energy, for insulation, solar heaters and heating pumps. Offers signed before 1 July 2020 and executed prior to September receive additional bonuses.</li> <li>The Dutch Association for Renewable Energy has proposed to simplify certain subsidies that regulate energy savings. Small companies (and individuals) are temporarily released from complying with certain requirements so that the industry gets the necessary impulses and secures orders.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SDE+</b> Renewable projects with an allocated subsidy grant can under certain conditions apply for an extension of the construction period of one year. The exemption needs to be obtained from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (<i>RVO</i>).</p> <p>The subsidy round for SDE++ scheduled for autumn 2020 shall not be postponed due to COVID19. The subsidy round, for which an amount of EUR 6 billion is available, will open on 29 September and run until 22 October.</p> <p><b>RES</b> Following the Paris Agreement and the Dutch Climate Agreement, in order to reach the climate goals, each region has to develop a Regional Energy Strategy Plan (<i>RES</i>) which sets out which, where and how many renewable energy sources can be developed. Such RESEs had to be finalized by 1 June 2020. This period has been extended to 1 October 2020.</p>	
<p><b>Extension of grid-connection deadlines</b> for solar projects being built under the SDE+ incentive program for large scale renewables;</p>		
<p><b>Grid Operators</b></p> <p>The Dutch grid operators have decided to cooperate and take the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Safe Working Together' protocol;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Taxes</b></p> <p>Immediate relieve of certain tax payments has been announced. Entrepreneurs experiencing financial difficulties as a consequence of COVID19 can postpone certain tax payments for three months. Substantiation of the entitlement can be done after the 3 months. This relieve also applies for the Energy Tax (<i>Energiebelasting</i>) and the Renewable Energy Allowance (<i>Opslag Duurzame Energie</i>) which energy</p>	

- Resolve gas and power failures - business as usual principle;
- Customers with payment arrears will not be shut off;
- Grid managers will continue to carry out work in the public space in order to guarantee the continuity of the energy grid.

### Financing arrangements

Dutch financial institutions collectively (ie. ABN AMRO, ING Bank, Rabobank, Volksbank and Triodos Bank) announced a suspension (with immediate effect) of all payment obligations for loans up to an amount of EUR 50 M made available to healthy companies.

companies collect through their invoices in the months April, May and June 2020. Such taxes shall be collected in October 2020.

Under the **business loan guarantee scheme** (*Garantiefonds Ondernemingsfinanciering, GO*) for large and medium-sized companies, the government guarantees up to 90% of outstanding amounts of certain loans. The right to apply for such guarantee is temporarily increased to loans up to EUR 150 million and the budget for guaranteeing loans is increased to EUR 10 billion. This guarantee scheme serves to mitigate negative impact of coronavirus related consequences on the liquidity of enterprises;

The levying of **Energy tax and Sustainable Energy Surcharge (ODE)** for companies will be temporarily postponed. It concerns the supply of energy to large consumers for which the energy supplier invoices the actual consumption on a monthly basis. For supplies of natural gas and electricity in the months of April, May and June 2020, the Energy tax and ODE, as well as the VAT on these supplies, will become due at a later time than normal. The measure creates the possibility for energy suppliers to deviate from the applicable regulations, but it is not an obligation. In October 2020, the Energy tax and ODE, plus the VAT thereon, will be charged via an additional invoice;

For **corporate income tax** purposes, it will be possible to take into account (tax) losses that companies are expected to incur this year when determining the profit for 2019. Normally, this 'offsetting' can only take place when filing the corporate income tax return 2020, which will not be earlier than early 2021 or later. The Government considers it undesirable if companies must wait so long for this set off. The Government will make it possible to consider the expected loss for the year 2020 due to the corona crisis to the profit for the year

2019, as a “tax corona reserve” for corporate income tax purposes. This corona reserve may not exceed the profit for 2019;

**Deferment of payment for a wide range of taxes**, including personal income tax, corporate income tax, wage tax, value added tax, environmental taxes (energy tax/ODE, coal tax, waste tax, tax on tap water). For the applicable taxes, the postponement applies until 19 June 2020. This means that requests for deferment of payment will be dealt with at least until that date;

**Aid package for companies**, aimed at compensating employees’ wage costs (up to 90% of the wage costs). A company may apply if certain criteria are met, including:

- a decrease in turnover of at least 20%;
- the employer should continue paying the employees’ wages;

the employer must not resort to dismissal of the employees.

# United Arab Emirates

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p>On 29 April 2020, the Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP), which the UAE is a member of, announced a AED 1.84 billion (approx. EUR 460 million) support package. This package is to help companies in the energy sector (including renewables) continue to fund projects as the COVID-19 outbreak challenges the industry. It is intended that the funds be deployed to support sustainable, impact-driven utilities, renewables and petrochemical projects.</p> <p>Otherwise, we see a trend of industry leaders postponing projects and public bid openings across the region (at least in the short term), due to the COVID-19 outbreak.</p>	<p>On 22 March 2020, the UAE Cabinet approved and announced an economic stimulus package amounting to AED 126.5 billion (approx. EUR 32 billion) as part of the Federal Government's measures to support the national UAE economy, ensure business continuity and mitigate the impact caused by COVID-19 (the "<b>UAE Stimulus Package</b>").</p> <p>There is nothing in the UAE Stimulus Package to suggest that a specific amount is earmarked for the renewables sector or even the energy sector in general.</p> <p>However, certain elements of the UAE Stimulus Package might be relevant to the renewables sector and its projects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suspending bid bonds and exempting start ups of performance guarantees for projects up to AED 50 million.</li> <li>• Reducing industrial land leasing fees by 25% on new contracts.</li> <li>• Waiving current commercial and industrial penalties.</li> </ul>	<p>Increasingly, projects under construction are coming under strain and are struggling to maintain personnel levels (due to mandatory social distancing on construction sites) and equipment delivery schedules. This is leading to parties evoking force majeure provisions, with varying success.</p> <p>We also see parties looking to renegotiate contract pricing, again with varying success.</p> <p>It is however not all bleak. Emirates Water and Electricity Company ("<b>EWEC</b>") has just announced the construction of the world's largest waste to energy plant with two new waste to energy projects in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain. There is the general impression that there will be some interesting projects coming out of the pipeline, once COVID-19 restrictions ease.</p> <p>Interestingly, EWEC also just received a record low bid for the planned 2GW Al-Dhafra photovoltaic (PV) solar project in Abu Dhabi. Abu Dhabi may now lay claim to the world's cheapest solar power.</p>

# United Kingdom

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<p>Currently, the main renewables trade bodies in the UK have not called for specific action in response to the impact of COVID-19 on the renewables market.</p>	<p>On 20 March, the UK Government announced a package of measures to support businesses that have suffered disruption due to COVID-19, including the following:</p>	<p>COVID-19 has seen a repeat of some of the analysis that was carried out at around the time of the global financial crisis in 2008 and after 9/11 in 2001.</p>
<p>Some trade bodies have published commentary on their websites, which includes advising developers dealing with COVID-19 economic uncertainty to consider short-term fixed power purchase agreements (PPAs). These could both give price certainty and protection in a very volatile price period, but also allow a chance to revise PPA prices upwards in the event prices recover.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</b>, to support UK employers in continuing to pay part of employees' salary for employees that would otherwise have been laid off;</li> <li>• Allowing businesses to <b>defer VAT payments</b> for 3 months;</li> <li>• A <b>Statutory Sick Pay relief package</b> for small and medium sized businesses (SMEs);</li> <li>• The <b>Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme</b>, offering loans of up to £5 million for SMEs through the British Business Bank;</li> <li>• A <b>new lending facility from the Bank of England to help support liquidity among larger firms</b>, helping them bridge COVID-19 disruption to their cash flows through loans; and</li> <li>• Businesses in financial distress, and with outstanding tax liabilities, may be eligible to receive <b>support with their tax affairs</b> through HMRC's Time To Pay service.</li> </ul>	<p>Sponsors and lenders to project financed renewable energy projects, especially those that are currently in the construction phase, are reflecting on the impact of COVID-19 and the potential mitigants thereto. The impact of COVID-19 on Borrower project companies and their contractual counterparties, such as EPC contractors, OEMs and off-takers are many and varied and all parties would do well to revisit their contracts in order to ensure that their obligations the risk allocation are fully understood.</p>
<p>National Grid released a 2020 Summer Outlook Report containing their view on the electricity system for the summer ahead. The report is designed to support the industry in its preparations for the period as a result of COVID-19 and can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>The UK Government has acted quickly to pass a Statutory Instrument, The Feed-in Tariffs</p>	<p>At times like these contractual provisions relating to Material Adverse Effect, force majeure, cross-default, non-payment and financial covenants come under scrutiny.</p>
<p>The Solar Trade Association is running weekly webinars to help its members stay informed of the impacts of COVID-19 on the industry.</p>		<p>Project finance structures are designed to withstand temporary shocks such as COVID-19 will hopefully prove to be. A combination of conservative financial covenants, comprehensive insurance and long-term contracts with creditworthy counterparties should help to ensure that relatively few projects are derailed as a result of this pandemic.</p>
		<p>However, "forewarned is forearmed" and all parties to such projects should ensure that they are familiar with their contracts and the current interpretation of their obligations at law.</p>

(Amendment) (Coronavirus) Order 2020 (the **CV-19 Order**) to give small-scale renewable electricity generators additional time to apply for accreditation under the Feed-in Tariff scheme (the **FIT scheme**). The CV-19 Order came into force on 31 March 2020. The FIT scheme was a financial incentive introduced by the government in 2010, for electricity generated from small scale low-carbon sources.

The government identified that as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, up to 250 projects close to completion (mostly community energy installations) were facing unavoidable delays. The impact facing generators was that they would be unable to complete the construction, commission the projects and submit their application for FIT accreditation in time; for many projects the deadline was 31 March 2020.

The CV-19 Order amends the Feed-in Tariffs Order 2012 (as amended). We have set out the amended validity periods within which a generator can apply for FIT accreditation [here](#).

Covid-19 is beginning to have an impact on renewable technologies and in particular, wind projects. Statkraft has announced that it has put the construction of the Windy Rig wind farm (43 MW) in Scotland on hold as a result of the Covid-19 social distancing measures implemented by UK Government. A further two onshore wind construction sites in Scotland came to a standstill at the beginning of April; works at the Burnfoot East (10.8 MW) and Gordonbush (47 MW) wind farms have stopped, though other wind farms in development continue to be worked on such as at Crossdykes (48 MW).

# Ireland\*

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Irish Commission for Regulation of Utilities recently issued a market update to reassure market participants that it and Ireland’s electricity system operator (EirGrid) have implemented business continuity plans to ensure their continued service to the market during this COVID-19 event. See link <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• Many of the main domestic electricity suppliers in Ireland have proposed to or have already introduced price cuts (to reflect the drop in commodity prices). This will assist in easing financial pressures on end consumers who have been affected by the crisis.</li> <li>• The Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) has issued a guidance note (see link <a href="#">here</a>) on the work planning and protocols that employers will need to put in place for reopening sites and returning to work (such as the provision of suitable facilities for workers to respect social distancing measures and appropriate transport services to and from site locations).</li> </ul>	<p>In recent weeks, the Irish Government / state bodies have implemented a number of measures which have had an impact on the energy sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation of restrictions preventing non-essential travel including non-essential travel to and from workplaces. A list of “essential services” was subsequently brought into effect. Services relating to electricity, gas, water, sewage and waste management and the construction and development of critical infrastructure were classed as “essential services” and thus travel to these workplaces to carry out these services is permitted.</li> <li>• A four week extension to the application qualification deadline for Ireland’s new Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) (moved to 30 April 2020) was approved in order to give applicants more time to adjust to COVID-19 impacts.</li> <li>• An extension to a moratorium on domestic gas and electricity disconnections to 16 June 2020 for non-payment was introduced in order to provide appropriate protection and reassurance for electricity consumers during the current period of uncertainty.</li> <li>• ‘Freeze Orders’ orders were introduced, freezing time limits in relation to certain statutory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the slowdown of a large number of renewable energy projects across Ireland. All non-essential construction has also come to a halt. As a result, developers, contractors, equipment suppliers and lenders are carefully considering their positions under their project and finance documents (unsurprisingly in particular in relation to force majeure and insurance provisions).</li> <li>• Ireland has also seen a sharp fall in demand for electricity as a large number of the workforce are now working from home. With the lifting of current movement restrictions expected to occur over a phased basis, it is likely that it will take some time for electricity demand to return to normal levels.</li> </ul>

Actions proposed by industries leaders	Actions confirmed by governments/States	Market comments
	<p>procedures in planning and building control legislation. Public consultation windows cannot close during this time, meaning that for projects subject to public consultation, there will be delays in applying for consent, including for turbine changes and system service infrastructure or grid. The freeze on these time periods is due to conclude on 9 May 2020, but may be extended until 9 November 2020.</p>	

\*Input from Ireland was provided by [Matheson](#).

**DISCLAIMER - THERE MAY BE SOME ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS SET BY LOCAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AND THAT THE LIST CAN NOT IN ANY CASE BE CONSIDERED AS EXHAUSTIVE DUE TO THE CONTINUOUS ON-GOING UPDATES**