



European Permitting Conference

From bottlenecks to breakthroughs:
Rethinking industrial permitting for a
competitive & climate-neutral Europe

8 September 2026 (13:15 - 17:45 CEST)

Voka, Brussels Office - Rue Royale 154-158, Brussels

12:00-13:15 | 70 min | Networking Lunch

13:15 - 13:30 | 15 min | Opening Remarks

Setting the scene: Permitting as a strategic enabler for Europe's future

1. Philippe Lamberts, Principal Advisor to the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen
2. Frank Beckx, CEO, VOKA

13:30 – 14:25 | 55 min | Session 1 - Unlocking Permitting in Europe: Addressing cross sectoral Bottlenecks and scaling opportunities

Focus: This panel will explore the current state of play of permitting across EU Member States, identifying key administrative, regulatory and practical bottlenecks. It will also assess opportunities for simplification and harmonization, the importance of adequate funding and de-risking investments, as well as addressing administrative capacity to deliver faster, more efficient procedures.

Moderated by Gabrielle van Melkebeke, Senior Manager for Sustainability, Environment and Membership for IOGP Europe, and Chair of the Informal Coalition on Permitting (ICP)

Keynote: Radan Kanev (EPP, BG) Member of the European Parliament

Panel 1:

1. Stellina Siarapi, Secretary General for Private Investments at the Ministry of Development, Hellenic Republic
2. Lucie Boost, Secretariat General, Gas Infrastructure Europe (GIE)
3. Vincent Dufief, Group Corporate Affairs Vice-President, Imerys
4. Fabienne Moimaux, Managing Director, Managing Director Low Carbon Transition Group for BNP Paribas CIB*

14:25 – 15:20 | 55 min | Session 2 - Strengthening Europe's industrial base with CCS value chain

Focus: This session will examine how permitting frameworks can better support Europe's decarbonization objectives. The discussion will cover challenges and bottlenecks in the development of CCS from the perspective of operators along the full value chain: energy-intensive industries, CO₂ transport operators, CO₂ storage operators

**Invited or in the process of being invited*

and challenges related to NZIA implementation. It will cover the specific challenges faced by energy-intensive sectors and explore how streamlined permitting processes can support industrial transformation, innovation, and investment.

Moderated by Caterina de Matteis, Senior Manager for Energy and Climate, IOGP Europe

Keynote: Dimitris Tsiodras, (EPP, EL) Member of the European Parliament

Panel 2:

1. Tom O'Brien, Group Chief Executive, Nephin Energy
2. Gerda Verburg, Chair of ElementNL
3. Răzvan Popescu, CEO, ROMGAZ
4. Martin Pischler, Head of Global Quality Management and Sustainability, RHI Magnesita
5. Fluxys*

15:20 - 15:40 | 20 min | Coffee break

15:40 – 16:35 | 55 min | Session 3 - Permitting the Energy System: Renewables & Geothermal

Focus: Renewable and Geothermal project development can be subject to numerous permits, authorizations, and other regulatory requirements. These permitting and regulatory requirements' impact should be addressed to ensure they don't affect project timelines, costs, and risks, undermining energy transition.

Moderated by Robin Verbeke, Expert in Environmental & Spatial Planning, Voka

Keynote: Paula Rey Garcia, Head of Unit of the Renewables and Energy System Integration Policy (DG ENER), European Commission

Panel 3:

1. Luca Franza, Head of EU Affairs, Edison
2. Guy Willems, Senior Advisor for Environment & Community Engagement, WindEurope
3. Philippe Dumas, Secretary General, EGEC
4. Gabrielle Gauthey, Secretary General, GD4S
5. Harmen Dekker, CEO, European Biogas Association (EBA)

16:35 - 17:30 | 55 min | Session 4 - Making permitting work in practice: Perspectives from Member States and industry

Focus: Permitting challenges often arise not only from legislation itself, but from how rules and procedures are implemented and navigated in practice. This session will bring together competent authorities, Member State and regional representatives, and industry to exchange perspectives from both sides of the permitting process. Drawing on practical experience, the discussion will identify common bottlenecks and explore

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workable solutions to improve the efficiency, predictability and resilience of permitting systems across Europe.

Moderated by Rolf Kuby, Director General, Euromines

Keynote: Wouter Beke, (EPP, BE) Member of the European Parliament

Keynote: Pernille Weiss-Ehler, Member of Cabinet of Commissioner Roswall, European Commission

Panel 4:

1. David Govoni, Natural Resources & Sustainability Manager, Unicalce
2. David Granberg, Senior Legal Counsel, Boliden

17:30 – 17:45 | 15 min | Concluding Remarks

From Discussion to Delivery: Key takeaways & policy pathways forward

- Vice Chair of ITRE, European Parliament*
- François-Régis Mouton de Lostalot, Managing Director, IOGP Europe

End of the event and networking cocktail.