



European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) (Amendment) Regulations  
2026 Circular

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Number CEPP 2/2026

30 April 2026

To: Directors of Planning in each local authority

CC: Chief Executives  
Senior Planners  
An Coimisiún Pleanála  
Office of the Planning Regulator  
Directors of Regional Assemblies  
Mayor of Limerick  
Land Development Agency

**European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) (Amendment)  
Regulations 2026**

**Purpose of Circular**

This circular informs planning authorities, the Commission and other key stakeholders that the European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 (S.I. No. 185 of 2026) were signed by the Minister on 29 April and entered into force on that date.

The Regulations amend Regulation 38(2) of the European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 (S.I. No. 274 of 2025).

Regulation 38(2) sets the commencement date for Regulations 6, 12, 14 and 18 of S.I. No. 274 of 2025, which relate to the introduction of mandatory EIA scoping for renewable energy projects that fall within Article 16b of the Directive.

The commencement date for these requirements has been changed from 1 May 2026 to 1 November 2026.

**1. Summary of new legislation**

Regulations 6, 12, 14 and 18 of S.I. No. 274 of 2025 amend the EIA scoping provisions in the Planning and Development Act 2000. These amendments transpose Article 16b(2) of RED III, which requires EIA scoping to be mandatory for renewable energy projects that fall within Article 16b of the Directive.



Regulation 38(2) of S.I. No. 274 of 2025 originally provided that these amendments would come into operation on 1 October 2025. This date was later changed to 1 May 2026 by S.I. No. 435 of 2025.

The new Regulations change the commencement date again. Regulations 6, 12, 14 and 18 of S.I. No. 274 of 2025 will now come into operation on 1 November 2026.

## 2. Further information

The Department will continue to engage with all stakeholders to support readiness for the ongoing implementation of the RED III directive. Any enquiries regarding this circular can be emailed to the Department at:

[environmentalplanningpolicy@housing.gov.ie](mailto:environmentalplanningpolicy@housing.gov.ie)

**Issued by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Clifford".

Lisa Clifford  
Principal  
Climate and Environmental Planning Policy