

The Romanian government has approved a new measure to eliminate the validity period of 12 months for the green certificates. The certificates will now be valid until the end of the support scheme in 2032 and will be taxed upon sale, not upon registration.

The Romanian Government has approved the draft Emergency Ordinance amending the country's renewable energy law (Law 220/2008), which is expected to improve the trade of green certificates.

The new package of measures has eliminated the validity period of only 12 months for the green certificates, extending it for the entire period of the support scheme operation, until 2032.

Furthermore, the new rules impose that power plant operators will pay the profit tax at the time of the green certificate trading. Prior to this new legislation, they had to pay it when they registered the installations on their accounts.

The new law establishes that the mandatory quota for purchase allotted to electricity suppliers will be replaced with a new mechanism, called the static green certificate amount, which will be reviewed every two years by local energy regulator ANRE.

The new rules envisage the creation of anonymous platforms for the trading of green certificates on centralized electricity trading markets, which is expected to be beneficial for both large and small producers.

The Romanian Photovoltaic Industry Association (RPIA) has welcomed the new measures, although adding that do not go far enough in solving problems, and will benefit "only a small part of the renewable energy sector in Romania."

According to the Romanian Government, extension of the green certificate's validity will enable the sale of surplus green certificates, and ensure a better sale rate to market participants.

Under the current legislation, green certificates are granted only to those operators that connected their PV projects not later than Jan. 31, 2016. A PV power producer is entitled to receive green certificates over a 15-year period. A green certificate can be traded on a regulated market called OPCOM for a minimum price of €28.8 (\$30.4) to a maximum of €58.8 Euro (\$62.0). These values are subject to indexation on a yearly basis, taking into account the euro zone inflation rate.

Source: pv-magazine