

Thu Apr 8, 2021 / 12:00 PM EDT

Tesla lashes out at German red tape ahead of planned site opening



FILE PHOTO: A view of the Tesla Gigafactory construction site in Gruenheide near Berlin, Germany, December 8, 2020.

Reuters/Hannibal Hanschke/File Photo

(Reuters) - Tesla sharply criticised lengthy regulatory processes in Germany ahead of the planned opening of its first European gigafactory this summer.

Tesla plans to have the factory up and running by July 1, 2021 to start building its electric crossover, the Model Y but the process has been slow and complicated by environmental disputes.

In December, Tesla was told by a court to suspend clearing of a forest at the site of the proposed factory after environmentalists said cutting down more trees could endanger hibernating snakes.

"The German approval framework for industrial and infrastructure projects as well as spatial planning directly contradicts the urgency to plan and realise such projects that is necessary to battle climate change," Tesla said in a letter to a local court seen by Reuters.

Tesla, in the letter dated April 7, said it was "particularly irritating" that there was still no timetable for the final approval of the plant, located in Gruenheide outside Berlin, 16 months after the carmaker applied for it.

The letter, first reported by newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, urges authorities to speed up processes to ensure investors have more transparency about when their investments in climate-friendly technologies pay off.

Red tape in Germany has also been a problem in the area of wind energy expansion, with some projects taking several years from application to realisation.

(Reporting by Nadine Schimroszik; Writing by Christoph Steitz; Editing by Bernadette Baum)

Our standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles](#).

MORE FROM REUTERS