

# ESMC Achievements

## 2020



## Background

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ESMC has closed the year 2020 with some key achievements and is starting 2021 with several exciting projects and ambitions. In this first year of operations, in a difficult context, we have successfully positioned ESMC on the map as one of the most important European PV organizations, and placed it in discussions about PV in Europe.

ESMC's key message is starting to gain traction that PV manufacturing in Europe is of strategic importance as PV is increasingly becoming the most important energy source.

ESMC has now an office in Brussels, with a dedicated team working remotely, and supported by its members and several organisations.

A large part of 2020 was spent organizing and creating partnerships and building relations. While the PV market in Europe was somehow stable in 2020 compared to 2019, the number of manufacturing projects has grown fast, and some key actors are developing in key parts of the PV value chain.

## Setting a focus on the upstream value chain

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The first and concrete achievement of ESMC is to have urged the discussion on the need of a competitive PV manufacturing industry in Europe. Our partners ETIP-PV, VDMA, Solar United and Solar Power Europe have in the wake of the creation and activities of ESMC also recognized the importance of promoting large-scale manufacturing in Europe and launched various activities.

ESMC is satisfied that its creation unlocked such discussions after years of focus on the downstream part of the PV value chain, which is largely based on imported products. In all cases, ESMC strives to take a position that reflects the interests of the upstream part of the PV industry in Europe, in order to promote manufacturing companies, including equipment manufacturers and R&D organisations.

While some positions might not be immediately beneficial to a small part of the downstream actors in the short term, we are confident that our specific positioning will support the entire PV sector in Europe, from manufacturing to installation, by increasing the overall confidence in, and the acceptance of, the technology.

## Lobbying and influence

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Several important subjects have been promoted by ESMC in 2020 and led to concrete steps forward in those cases. ESMC aims at contributing positively for such subjects which have a direct impact on European manufacturers.

### 1. Ecodesign

As the European Commission is considering introducing environmental policies for PV and other markets, ESMC promoted a specific position aiming at supporting mandatory policies rather than voluntary schemes, with a preference for a strong Ecodesign scheme. The inclusion of the CO<sub>2</sub>-footprint in addition to other environmental requirements is also a key success for ESMC.

### 2. CO<sub>2</sub> content in French tenders

ESMC promoted to maintain valuing the CO<sub>2</sub>-content in French tenders to continue promoting sustainable PV manufacturing particularly in Europe.

### 3. Human Rights issues

ESMC has issued a statement condemning forced labour, and in particular gross human rights abuses against the Uighur minority in the Xinjiang province, China, calling for any goods (including Photovoltaic (PV) modules and components) which may have been produced with forced labour to be banned. The dependency of the European PV market on imported PV goods from regions with weak environmental and/or poor human rights standards represents a dilemma that the ESMC is dedicated to address.

### 4. Trade duties on solar glass

ESMC informed the European Commission that maintaining a European Solar Glass industry is essential to ensure a rebirth of large-scale manufacturing in Europe. While we believe that maintaining trade duties on glass might have some financial consequences on the short term for European manufacturers using Chinese solar glass, on the medium to long term, this would affect the entire PV value chain. The European Commission finally maintained the duties.

## ESMC Working groups

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### Ecodesign with ETIP-PV

- ESMC has set-up a working group dedicated to contributing input for the joint working group of ETIP-PV on Ecodesign and with the aim to propose a joint position from all actors of the PV sector in Europe. While this has no impact on our ability to propose our own positions, this strengthens the position of ESMC.

### Policy mapping

- This working group aims at identifying relevant policies (already in place, under development or potential new policies) impacting the PV market demand and more importantly European PV manufacturers. A survey was conducted rating the impacts of these policies and the results will serve as a basis for future policy recommendations to promote European solar manufacturing.

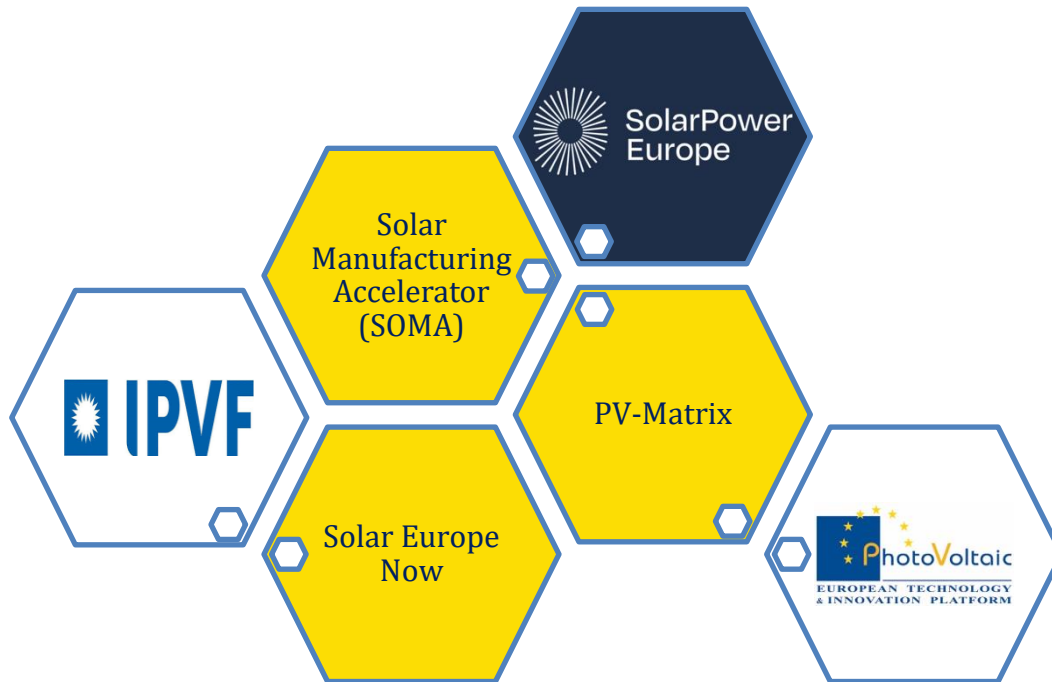
### IPCEI (upcoming)

- The PV industry might be able to emulate the success of the Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) for the battery and other industries of strategic importance. It would elevate PV to be considered as a strategic industry in Europe and would allow public subsidies to exceed state aid limitations. This working group launched in 2021 will aim at shaping a PV industry IPCEI at European Level bringing together European manufacturers and National Governments with the aim to enable co-financing of PV industry development in Europe.

## Partnerships

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ESMC has engaged in several partnership to promote PV manufacturing in Europe:



### 1. Solar Manufacturing Accelerator

The Solar Manufacturing Accelerator (SoMA) is promoting towards European institutions the existence of clear and concrete plans to develop PV manufacturing in Europe. Managed by SolarPower Europe, with the support of ESMC, this initiative is increasing the visibility of the manufacturing industry at European policy level. It is planned to develop this further into a European Solar Initiative (ESI). ESMC is promoting its members and their projects, enlarging the scope of companies and technologies initially proposed.

### 2. PV MATRIX

The ETIP-PV has launched together with Solar United and ESMC a tool to gather all industrial PV actors in Europe and serve as a complete repository of companies. ESMC is promoting its members in this useful tool.

### 3. Solar Europe Now

Launched by IPVF, this initiative to promote manufacturing in Europe completes the scope of useful initiatives, with a focus on R&D and manufacturing in Europe.

## Events and networking

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### Solar Industry Forum 2020



ESMC organized and took part in two sessions under the 2020 Solar Industry Forum.

### EU-PVSEC



ESMC is an official partner of the 38th EU-PVSEC and is proposing rebates for its members and a clear visibility through the 4th Solar Industry Forum, in collaboration with several actors of the sector.

### Annual General Assembly



This annual event allows members to gather and exchange about the strategy of the organization and takes place every year. At the AGM in 2020 we heard an inspiring talk by Claude Thurmes, minister for Energy in Luxembourg.

European Solar Manufacturing Council ©

Energy Hub – 146 rue Royale – B- 1000 Brussels, Belgium  
<https://esmc.solar/>