Framework proposals for the EU Solar PV Industry Alliance

European Solar Manufacturing Council (ESMC) expresses strong support for the proposed EU Solar PV Industry Alliance in the recently adopted EU Solar Energy Strategy. We would like to stress the need for the Solar PV Industry Alliance to start the work towards establishing a concrete support program for PV manufacturing industry as soon as possible, preferably so that the implementation guidelines of the Alliance already are set in 2022. The measures investigated and taken should ensure fast European PV manufacturing capacities deployment along the full value chain and across the whole EU where viable. For the effective kick-off of the Alliance, we are proposing some guiding principles and the issues to be addressed without delay.

I. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Transparency, involvement of as big part of the European PV manufacturing industry as possible, effective management structure, fast actions supporting the PV manufacturing industry and de-risking investments should be absolute priorities of the Alliance, which are in line with the mandate of the EU Solar Energy Strategy. A proper governance framework should ensure the balanced functioning of the Alliance and avoid potential conflict of interests.

II. ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

- Mapping of existing and prospective European PV manufacturing capacities along the full value chain and identifying structural and financial factors influencing the developments.
- Mapping of the existing and potential financial support instruments (ways and measures to de-risk the
 financing of the private investments) with a view to ensure the most effective and timely investments and
 addressing both capital costs and operational costs.
- Creating the appropriate ecosystem and ensuring structural factors for a long-term off-take demand for PV hardware manufactured domestically in the EU.
- Promoting a policy framework that allows for long term contracting certainty across the PV value chain, as
 well as sets EU standards addressing CO₂ footprint, circularity, labor law requirements, IP protection and
 the like to ensure a more level playing field and encourage non-EU regions to upgrade their standards to
 the EU level.
- Ensuring that mature manufacturing projects are prioritised under fast track public support process to allow for a timely implementation of projects, and avoid unnecessary red tape and public documentary or process delays.
- Setting-up concrete long-term goals for PV manufacturing capacities along the full value chain in Europe.

III. GOALS TO BE ACHIEVED

- 75% of deployed or installed PV capacities should be produced within the EU, reaching at least 35 GW of European PV production capacities in 2025 and 100 GW in 2030.
- A special strategic financial vehicle of at least € 5 billion in form of state credit guarantees should be implemented immediately in order to unlock the financial capital for the development, implementation and scale-up of the EU PV manufacturing industry while extensively reducing the capital and operational costs for the establishment of new PV manufacturing capacities in the EU.
- Regulatory, financial and other stimulating actions taken to ensure PV manufacturing capacities along the full value chain in Europe (not less than 50% local production and supply in each part of the value chain comparing with the most advanced parts of the PV value chain in Europe).

