

# SET PLAN – CALL FOR EVIDENCE

**The European Solar Manufacturing Council (ESMC) is an industry association representing the interests of the European PV manufacturing industry. ESMC represents key European industrial companies, organisations and research centres active in the PV manufacturing sector. Our aim is to promote and support the PV manufacturing industry and its value chains at the European level by creating a supportive political environment.**

ESMC welcomes the upcoming revision of the SET Plan to make it fit for the new political context. ESMC responds to this call for evidence in 5 key supporting messages proposing more concrete actions on the implementation of foreseen targets:

- 1) ESMC extensively supports the target of the renewed SET Plan to increase the performance and cost efficiency of smart clean energy technologies, as well as the efficiency and resilience of clean energy value chains, including those at industrial manufacturing level. All the necessary conditions for the long-term European PV manufacturing competitiveness must be delivered as fast as possible using all available measures including, but not limited to the measures adopted in this respect of the SET Plan. The current extensive import dependency of PV hardware in the EU may well hinder the rapid transition to renewables, as Europe risk facing supply chain shortages if domestic PV manufacturing capacities are not secured in a fast and sustainable manner. Accordingly, industrial PV manufacturing utilizing the SET Plan is a key to solve the forthcoming supply chain challenges for the successful deployment of the European PV targets.
- 2) ESMC also supports the envisaged target of SET Plan revision to accelerate the development and the deployment of smart clean energy technologies. ESMC proposes to use the SET Plan to grant the de facto status for PV manufacturing as the European strategic energy technology. The SET Plan should envisage concrete measures to support innovative PV technologies and at the same time ensuring the scaling of PV manufacturing in the EU.
- 3) ESMC supports the plans to develop an overall strategy to exploit synergies between R&I strategies and the innovation landscape at national, European and international levels, and specific synergies between the various instruments providing financial support for R&I at national and EU levels. This measure would be beneficial for developers to attract financing for R&I projects without delay and to integrate it into other PV manufacturing frameworks.
- 4) ESMC extensively supports the target to reduce EU technology dependence and increase its resilience including the availability of critical materials. It is of utmost importance to clarify a concrete and targeted action plan including the appropriate funding for the implementation of this target.
- 5) As the revision of the SET Plan will also take into account various EU policy incentives and policy frameworks, ESMC reiterates the importance that support for innovative and breakthrough PV manufacturing technologies is critical to maintain the long-term and sustainable competitive advantage of European PV manufacturing. ESMC already in 2021 initiated the Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) for solar PV manufacturing (PV-IPCEI) to ensure the long-term and sustainable development of innovative and breakthrough technologies in Europe. The respective measures are under implementation to start the notification of the concrete projects once the confirmation of several more Member States are granted.

ESMC is looking forward to the timely and comprehensive revision of the SET Plan with the clear expectation that the European Commission will explore all routes necessary to appropriately address the existing bottlenecks of the European PV manufacturing value chain while equally respecting the measures for R&I and industrial manufacturing.