



KADRI SIMSON

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENERGY

Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. +32-2 295 05 20
Kadri.SIMSON@ec.europa.eu

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Dr. Johan Lindahl
Secretary General
European Solar Manufacturing Council
Rue Royale 146
B – 1000 Brussels

Dear Dr. Lindahl,

Thank you very much for your letter to Executive Vice-President Timmermans, Commissioner Breton and myself on your ambitious plans for a European solar manufacturing renaissance, particularly in the context of the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). We have read with interest your policy statement document. Let me start by thanking you for your support to the European Green Deal and recognising the important challenges and opportunities its implementation is facing, particularly in a post-Covid19 context.

Following the European Parliament's consent end of last year, the European Council adopted the regulation laying down the EU's long-term budget together with the 'Next Generation EU' recovery instrument, totalling €1.8 trillion. The funds will help Member States address the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic whilst ensuring that their economies benefit from the green and digital transitions, becoming more sustainable and resilient. The financial package confirmed the European Green Deal objectives as a driving force of the European economic recovery.

Member States have submitted the national Recovery and Resilience Plans and those have a strong focus on a green recovery as a minimum of 37% of expenditure will be related to climate. A large part of this will translate into energy-relevant investments.

In your letter you expressed concern about the distribution of the RRF. In the national Recovery and Resilience Plans, you were observing that power generation projects from wind and solar are well

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represented, contrary to projects in the area of European PV manufacturing capability, being essential to keep up with the important increase in new solar PV installations projected for the next years.

The Commission has started to assess the submitted Recovery and Resilience Plans, ensuring that the notified plans comply with the regulatory requirements set by the legislation¹. We will be evaluating each Plan as a comprehensive package to address the economic and social impacts of the crisis, taking into account a number of criteria, including the contribution to green transition (37% climate mainstreaming), jobs and growth creation potential, economic and social resilience, long lasting impact and compliance with specific do-no-significant harm principle.

The ambitious climate mainstreaming target together with common priorities identified by the Commission under the RRF flagships will offer an opportunity for Member States to help accelerate the deployment of renewables, including solar, and strengthen the clean energy industry supply chains within their countries. The 'Power Up' flagship has ambitious goals. It aims to support building and integration of almost 40% of the 500 GW of renewable power generation needed by 2030, the instalment of 6 GW of electrolyser capacity, and the production and transportation of 1 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen across the EU by 2025. Solar energy will thus be particularly important for this kind of projects. Other flagships, like the 'Renovate' or 'Recharge and Refuel', will also provide opportunities for supporting renewable energy investments.

We firmly believe that renewable energy investments together with manufacturing and supply chains can help re-build the economy and jobs. Solar PV technology is an important renewable technology for the European energy system we encourage.

I am glad that a meeting between your organisation and my Head of Cabinet Mr Stefano Grassi was held in June to continue the discussion.

Yours sincerely,



Kadri Simson

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0241&from=EN>