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**Date:** February 20, 2024

## LAST CHANCE TO RESCUE EU PV MODULE PRODUCERS

We, the European Solar Manufacturing Council (ESMC), representing nearly entire European solar photovoltaics (PV) manufacturing industry (almost 80 companies) and EU PV module producers in particular, are sending this letter in conjunction with our recent letter to the European Commission on 30<sup>th</sup> January and our communication with detailed proposals on 12<sup>th</sup> February on how to maintain the current EU PV module manufacturing capacities.

As the European Commission is considering the emergency measures for the EU PV module producers potentially to be adopted and applied at the earliest possible time, it is of absolute necessity to take bold decisions, including potential State aid exemptions for operational expenditures and adequate financing.

As has already been communicated in our proposals last week, covering the difference between the market price and the production costs of EU PV module producers for a temporary period, on a 40% utilization rate of the EU PV module manufacturing capacities, would safeguard EU PV module producers. For the framework to be effective, **firstly**, there is a need to cover EU PV module producers' stocks from 2023 (€160 million) and operational expenditures for the temporary period of 2024–2025 (up to €720 million, depending upon defined utilization rates and market prices of PV modules) until the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) is up and running. **Secondly**, exemption of the State aid rules would make the operational financing feasible — that depends on the decision of the European Commission. It is estimated that the avoided costs would reach ~ €860 million (avoided costs for restoring PV module production capacities later and minimizing the trade deficit during this period).

We, the undersigned EU PV module producers, are committed to maintain the current PV module production capacities, mentioned below, and prepared to enter the era of the NZIA, if the emergency support measures will be deployed without delay and on adequate terms.

No.	Company	Member State	Capacities	No.	Company	Member State	Capacities
1.	<i>Meyer Burger</i>	Germany	1 400 MW	7.	<i>Solitek</i>	Lithuania	250 MW
2.	<i>Heckert Solar</i>	Germany	800 MW	8.	<i>Systovi</i>	France	110 MW
3.	<i>Voltec Solar</i>	France	500 MW	9.	<i>Photowatt</i>	France	100 MW
4.	<i>Sonnenkraft</i>	Austria	450 MW	10.	<i>Belga Solar</i>	Belgium	100 MW
5.	<i>Bisol Group</i>	Slovenia	450 MW	11.	<i>Sunerg Solar</i>	Italy	100 MW
6.	<i>Solvis</i>	Croatia	300 MW	12.	<i>Escelco</i>	Spain	70 MW

It is worth mentioning that in addition to that, *3SUN* (Italy) is not yet producing but will start production by the end of the year (production capacities could be expanded to 3 000 MW).

We would like to assure you that these PV module production capacities (4 630 MW in total, potentially to be expanded to 7 630 MW during 2024) could still be maintained in case dedicated emergency support would be operationalized by taking principal decision by the end of February, followed by the implementing actions in 2–3 months. In March, we will be forced to make a difficult decision to fully close these PV module manufacturing facilities or partially and extensively reduce the production (in exceptional cases), if there are no major changes in the market and no emergency support decisions in the EU are taken. Consequently, the EU will be losing its major PV module production capacities extensively limiting the possibilities of achieving the 2030 net-zero manufacturing targets of the EU.

**ENCLOSURE: ESMC emergency support proposal: Emergency support – safeguarding EU PV module producers in a cost-efficient and strategic pattern.**

On behalf of the European Solar Manufacturing Council,



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