

Borussia Dortmund

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Open letter to the Dortmund leadership:
Solar, yes, but not with Chinese forced labour

Dear Carsten Cramer,

I was born and raised in Dortmund, and have always been a passionate supporter of Borussia Dortmund. I write to you with deep admiration for BVB which is more than just a football team – the energy of the Yellow Wall, the unwavering support of the fans, and the club's commitment to its values are what make BVB truly special.

I am also deeply committed to another cause: the transition to a sustainable future powered by clean energy. As someone actively engaged in solar manufacturing, I was thrilled to hear that BVB is embracing solar energy to power its stadium and facilities. This is a very important step in the right direction, demonstrating a commitment to sustainability and climate action.

However, I was very disappointed to learn that you have chosen a Chinese corporation as a partner, especially one with links to forced labour. Over the past 15 years, China has successfully crushed a significant portion of German and European solar manufacturing through unfair practices – state subsidies and the massive exploitation of workers and the environment. This is particularly evident with the company you now have chosen, JA Solar, which has been banned from the U.S. market due to its ties to forced labour in the Xinjiang region.

By partnering with JA Solar, BVB risks associating itself with a company complicit in practices that stand in stark contrast to the values of fairness, integrity, and respect for human dignity that symbolizes Borussia Dortmund. The BVB would have done well to choose a European partner and cooperate with the European solar industry.

Carsten Cramer, you have my full support in going solar, but, please, reconsider your choice of partner. Borussia Dortmund deserves much better. Do not lend the fantastic name of Borussia Dortmund to a controversial Chinese corporation linked to forced labour. BVB has always been a club that leads by example, and this is a crucial moment to show leadership in

sustainability and corporate responsibility. Let's not allow your solar transition to be tainted by human rights violations. Dortmund can and must do better.

Auf geht's, Dortmund! Auf geht's, Solar!

With sincere hope and unwavering support,

Carsten Rohr, Co-Chair European Solar Manufacturing Council

The European Solar Manufacturing Council represents more than 70 key European industrial companies across solar PV supply chain. ESMC's mission is to promote and support a robust, sustainable and competitive European solar manufacturing industry. ESMC provides a unified voice for the solar manufacturing industry, helping Europe achieve its net-zero goals while reducing dependency on external suppliers. www.esmc.solar