



THE SUSTAINABLE SOLAR ENERGY INITIATIVE

Brussels, 14 June 2013

Today's EU Foreign Affairs Council must support European Commission in face of proven dumping and aggression from China

The Foreign Affairs Council of Ministers meeting in Luxembourg today will discuss the EU's and China's respective anti-dumping cases involving Chinese solar panels and European wines.

“The EU and its member states should not be blackmailed by China’s mafia like behaviour. After a 9 month investigation, the European Commission has proven that Chinese solar manufacturers have taken over the European market by charging typically up to 50% lower prices than cost of production. Such behaviour is illegal under WTO and EU law, and has cost Europe thousands of jobs”, said Milan Nitzschke, President of EU ProSun.

It is not protectionist to tackle trade distorting practices such as dumping through the enforcement of World Trade Organisation and EU trade law. However, it is protectionist for China to give illegal export subsidies to its own solar industry to enable its producers to sell at below cost, and thereby wipe out European manufacturing and jobs. After the solar industry, wind energy, speciality engineering, telecommunications and electric mobility follow on the list of China’s current five-year plan

“It is time for European governments to show some backbone in the face of such aggression from China, and support EU Trade Commissioner Karel de Gucht to reach a fair negotiated settlement and uphold international trade law. If China fails to make a substantive offer, the EU must impose heavy anti-dumping duties that reflect the scale of China’s trade abuses,” said Nitzschke.

The US refused to be intimidated in the face of such flagrant violations of international trade law, and imposed anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on Chinese solar products of between 30% and 250% in 2012.

“Following the lead of our American partners, Europe must now stand up to such industry-destroying practices by China’s planned economy. When China joined the WTO in 2001 it exported no solar panels to the EU, but today, in 2013, it has taken over 84 per cent of the EU market and the European solar industry is being wiped out due to unfair competition”, concluded Nitzschke.

Notes for editors

BACKGROUND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL - TRADE ISSUES Friday 14 June in Luxembourg

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/137449.pdf

More information: www.prosun.org

Email: info@prosun.org