



THE SUSTAINABLE SOLAR ENERGY INITIATIVE

Brussels, 17 July 2013

AFASE must stop talking nonsense

Chinese lobby group deliberately destabilizes European solar sector and politicians

EU ProSun, the European solar manufacturers initiative which represents over 40 industrial companies in Europe with over 4,000 associated installers, utterly refutes the allegations of the Chinese-backed lobbying group AFASE.

"AFASE is a lobby group founded by the largest Chinese solar manufacturers and their importers, which tries to scaremonger the whole solar sector. AFASE's sole objective is to prevent anti-dumping duties so that Chinese manufacturers can continue to violate international trade law with impunity," said Milan Nitzschke, President of EU ProSun.

In a recent press release AFASE claims that the current EU anti-dumping duties of 11.8 percent would have resulted in price increases for solar products from China and a slump in the market. "AFASE's claims are clearly false. Chinese module prices are currently at the same level as before the imposition of duties. Unfortunately low tariffs provide a carte blanche for further dumping. China is still selling far below its own production costs," said Nitzschke. Furthermore, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce just announced that these duties are easy to absorb because they are at such a low level.

"It is time to finally take serious action to stop destructive dumping. Only then will we get back to real competition. There is no competition and there is no free trade as long as dumping is allowed. On the contrary, dumping leads to monopolies – this is devastating for the entire solar industry," Nitzschke continued. On August 6th, according to the European Commission's decision, the full rate of an average 47 percent duty shall apply.

"It is ludicrous that the Chinese lobby group AFASE now blames European duties for the insolvency of the project developer for solar power plants, Gehrlicher Solar. Politicians and solar installers should not be duped. The European solar market has fallen by 50 percent since 2011, without duties and despite the cheapest prices from China. On the contrary, China's dumping is responsible for a drop in European political support for feed-in-tariffs and thereby a decline in solar installations. It is obvious that not everyone will survive with a 50 percent fall in sales", concluded Nitzschke.

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