



THE SUSTAINABLE SOLAR ENERGY INITIATIVE

Brussels, 29 July 2013

## **European Solar Industry: European Commission argues with false data**

European solar manufacturers led by EU ProSun firmly reject the European Commission's claim that the agreement with China on minimum prices and import volumes is a success for European industry. On the contrary, European industry expects further bankruptcies and job losses as a result of this agreement. Milan Nitzschke, President of EU ProSun said: "The EU Commission argues with false data. Following this weekend's agreement the European solar market will be split. The EU solar market for 2013 is expected to be 10 gigawatts. The European Commission awarded 7 GW of this total as duty-free imports to government-subsidized Chinese solar producers. In other words 70% of the EU market will be given over to China's planned economy delivering products at dumped prices, and the remaining 30% will be shared between Europeans, Koreans, Japanese and other manufacturers from the rest of the world in free competition. This is far from a just agreement in favour of the European solar industry and fair competition." Therefore European solar producers feel obliged to file an immediate appeal against this agreement with the European Court of Justice.

In various media statements today, EU Trade Commissioner De Gucht and representatives of DG Trade have defended the agreement with China on solar products. Nitzschke said: "In addition to 70% of duty free imports in the future, we must consider massive volumes that were imported either duty free or with minimum duties during the last few months. This undertaking will lead to more insolvencies and layoffs. It is particularly absurd when the EU Commission now claims that European solar manufacturers could not supply bigger parts the European market. In the EU regulation of 4 June 2013, the Commission itself estimated the production capacity of European manufacturers at 9.74 gigawatts. The average annual production of European manufacturers was around 4 gigawatts. Due to Chinese dumping European utilization rates have fallen to below 50% capacity as noted by the European Commission. It is now vital to secure a proper legal decision from the Court in Luxembourg as soon as possible to end market-rigging by the European Commission and China".

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