

**Brussels, 2 December 2013**

**EU imposes tariffs and minimum price on Chinese solar modules  
European solar manufacturers welcome tariffs against Chinese dumping**

EU Member States finally decided today to set definitive anti-dumping duties and minimum import prices on solar cells and panels from China. This landmark decision should help to stem the flood of China's state-financed solar dumping in Europe.

EU trade defence measures have been imposed following an anti-dumping complaint by EU ProSun, representing the majority of European solar manufacturing.

Milan Nitzschke, President of EU ProSun commented: "The final tariffs of about 48% will at least partially compensate the vast sums of money invested by the Chinese government to put European manufacturers out of business and their domestic market. This is a dispute between market economies and the world's biggest state planned economy. Without these trade defence measures, free market companies are at the mercy of the Peoples' Republic of China five year plans, dumping and illegal subsidies."

According to China's five year plan to take over the global solar market it has built up massive overcapacity to a level twice that of global demand. Such market distortions depress prices artificially meaning that no company from any country apart from China can operate profitably. China now controls over 80% of the European and global solar market, causing companies from all over the world including Europe, USA, South Korea and others to shut their solar operations.

Nitzschke continued: "These EU solar tariffs are the first ray of hope for European companies to re-enter the market with high-value products."

However, EU ProSun is highly critical of the fixed minimum prices for Chinese solar imports. "The minimum prices agreed with China are way too low, and even lower than the true cost of solar manufacturing in China," commented Nitzschke.

In a bilateral agreement, the European Commission and Chinese companies agreed that solar modules sold at a price of 56 Euro cents can be free of customs tariffs. European solar companies have filed a complaint with the European Court against this illegal agreement.

Nitzschke stated: "We expect that the European Court will finally declare the minimum price system null and void. Then, EU tariffs will apply to all solar imports from China. The European Court must restore a rational free solar market in Europe completely free of Chinese government export subsidies and dumping."

The system of minimum prices will also end, when Chinese companies violate the minimum threshold of below 56 Euro cents without sales expenses, or 60 Euro cents per watt from sales within the EU. There are already some indicators that some Chinese companies are in breach of the agreement by selling below the minimum thresholds. Such breaches may lead to a partial or even total annulment of the EU agreement with China.

Any infraction of the price agreement will lead to a customs tariff on the products of the respective manufacturer. In cases of serious or numerous violations to the undertaking, there will be a full imposition of the tariff.

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