



THE SUSTAINABLE SOLAR ENERGY INITIATIVE

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IPCC: EU solar companies urge politicians to act "European renewable energy policy must move forwards, not backwards"

European solar manufacturers demand a revision of European energy policy in light of today's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report.

'European energy policy needs to stop moving backwards,' said Milan Nitzschke, President of the European Industrial Initiative EU ProSun. In recent months, more European states have restricted the promotion of renewable energies. Italy and France, for example, have cut subsidies for solar and wind power drastically. Germany even wants to impose a levy on self-generated solar electricity.

European companies are critical over the EU's lack of the promotion of renewable energy and development objectives. Nitzschke said: "It's unbelievable. For years, the EU discussed climate goals and independence from energy imports but when it comes to concrete measures, they are actually moving backwards. The EU has now put forward a proposal for environmental and energy state-aid guidelines that would effectively end most funding support mechanisms throughout Europe."

The IPCC report on climate change predicts extensive flood damage, extreme rain and droughts in Europe. "It is in our own interest to go further to promote renewable energies and energy saving measures against climate change," said Nitzschke. Worldwide the demand for clean energy technology is increasing dramatically.

According to EU ProSun, the European solar industry has succeeded in recent years to reduce the cost of solar power by more than 70 percent. Production costs are close to electricity from gas-fired plants but with the advantage that solar power systems produce energy exactly where it is needed - **on the building's roof**.

In recent years, the European solar industry has lost numerous players due to Asian dumping of solar panels at below their cost of production to capture market share. Nevertheless, EU's solar manufacturers remain global leaders in technology. Almost all new innovations in solar power used around the world, are still developed in Europe.

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