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EU ProSun welcomes opening of anti-circumvention investigation against solar imports from Taiwan and Malaysia

The European Commission has today announced the opening of an investigation against solar imports from Taiwan and Malaysia (Official Journal of the European Union L 132/60). These imports are suspected to partly originate from China, and therefore subject to duties against dumping and illegal subsidies. All imported solar cells and modules from Taiwan and Malaysia imported into the EU will now be registered, so that circumvented imports will incur duties of about 50 per cent.

The European industrial initiative EU ProSun welcomes the European Commission decision. Milan Nitzschke, President of EU ProSun said: "Chinese solar manufacturers circumvent the EU's anti-dumping measures by first exporting to third countries like Malaysia and Taiwan before they are imported into the EU, thereby falsifying their genuine origin. Such circumvention is customs fraud and must be stopped."

European solar manufacturers are severely damaged by this continued dumping. Many EU companies have been forced to close their production. Furthermore, EU ProSun estimates this massive fraud has already cost the EU and Member States over €500 million euros in lost customs revenue. According to media reports, European customs authorities have already launched investigations in order to collect duties retroactively. The introduction of anti-circumvention measures should stop this kind of customs fraud in the future.

Genuine solar manufacturers in Taiwan and Malaysia, which do not participate in Chinese customs evasion should be exempted from tariff measures. Nitzschke said: "EU measures should stop Chinese dumping and circumvention via third countries, not legitimate solar production from countries such as Taiwan and Malaysia which will continue to be imported duty free into the EU."

"Companies whose products are normally manufactured in Taiwan and Malaysia, are invited to make themselves known to the European Commission by a deadline of early July, and to request an exemption from additional tariffs," concluded Nitzschke.