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Solar manufacturers welcome U.S. decision against Chinese dumping
EU ProSun: US market grows with fair competition

The European solar industry welcomes the decision by the U.S. government to continue trade defence measures against Chinese dumping. Yesterday the U.S. Department of Commerce confirmed anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties of more than 30% on solar imports from the People's Republic of China. Measures have been in force since 2012, but due to continued massive dumping by Chinese exporters, tariff rates have now actually increased.

Milan Nitzschke, President of the European industrial initiative EU ProSun said: "Dumping violates basic rules of international trade and destroys fair competition which is the foundation for sustainable development of renewable energy. The U.S. again leads the way and shows how to act in the face of such flagrant violations of international trade law. Since the introduction of measures against Chinese dumping the U.S. market is booming, and there is a great variety of solar products for consumers and installers to choose from."

In fact, three years after the introduction of anti-dumping measures, the U.S. market is the fastest growing solar market in the world. "Last year, the United States brought online as much solar energy every three weeks as it did in all of 2008," according to the White House in a statement released yesterday. U.S. annual solar market growth is 30%, and the U.S. has now overtaken Europe in the development of photovoltaics. The Obama administration also announced a new program to better support solar energy in rental housing, affordable housing and public buildings.

"In the United States, we are today seeing a very different climate for solar energy compared to Europe. It is not about giving massive financial support to solar which is significantly lower in the U.S. relative to most EU member states. However, the United States provide fair competition and do not actively prevent the development of the solar sector. By contrast, the European government is constantly proposing new burdens for solar power users, rather than promoting the expansion of photovoltaics", said Nitzschke.

From the perspective of European solar manufacturers, the U.S. could be a role model for Europe. In 2013 the EU also applied anti-dumping duties and a minimum import price for Chinese imports. Companies doing their business primarily in China had recently called for a phasing out of anti-dumping measures. From the perspective of the solar industry this is absurd.

Nitzschke said: "The demand to allow dumping is as if the friends of Lance Armstrong called to abolish doping controls during the Tour de France. There is no fair competition with illegal import practices and destructive dumping. On the contrary, the U.S. example shows that effective anti-dumping measures, fair competition and a clear energy policy lead to the successful development of solar energy. "

EU ProSun exists since 2012 and represents the European solar manufacturing industry. The initiative is supported by 30 manufacturing companies to which more than a thousand installers are connected.

Link to publication of the White House to further promote solar energy in the United States:
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/07/07/increasing-solar-access-all-americans>

More information: www.prosun.org

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