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## European solar industry warns Commission against Market Economy Status for China

European manufacturers of solar technology, in chorus with numerous other European industry sectors, has expressed grave concerns ahead of the debate by the College of Commissioners about Market Economy Status (MES) for China, which is due to take place on Wednesday 20 July in Brussels.

EU ProSun, representing European solar manufacturers, today issued a stern warning to European policy makers about the significant dangers that Chinese dumping poses to the European solar industry.

“Without effective anti-dumping measures Europe would have already lost its entire solar industry; an industry which is critical in the fight against climate change,” pointed out Heiko Stubner, speaking for EU ProSun.

“The state of the art development in the solar sector is owed to European technology and leadership along the entire solar value chain. The EU would just carelessly abandon this leading know-how if it granted China MES,” stated Stubner.

China has demanded that the EU fold and grant it MES despite the fact that it does not meet all the EU’s MES criteria. European industry would be powerless against unfair Chinese dumping in the future if China is granted MES prematurely, when it has not yet become a true market economy. MES for China will mean that there will be no chance for a real competition on the best technology and further cost reductions.

Further, anti-dumping measures would only apply if prices of Chinese products in Europe fall below nationally subsidised prices in China. European companies that behave according to market rules and, that adhere to social and environmental standards, would have no chance of survival in these unfair market conditions.

“China's treatment in anti-dumping proceedings must be strictly linked to its compliance with the EU’s 5 market economy criteria,” said Stubner.

“The EU’s criteria were in place well before China joined the WTO 15 years ago,” points out Stubner. “China has never met more than 1 of these criteria, nor any of its fundamental obligations to the WTO. Until China has actually implemented market rules - and stops dumping - it cannot be granted MES,” concluded Stubner.