



THE SUSTAINABLE SOLAR ENERGY INITIATIVE

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EU-China summit

Solar manufacturers warn the EU about being naïve about China

On the occasion of the visit of China's Premier, Li Keqiang, for the EU-China summit taking place today and tomorrow (1& 2 June) in Brussels, European solar manufacturers have demanded that China fully complies with international trade rules - and also warned about more jobs losses in Europe resulting from China's unfair trade practises.

Milan Nitzschke, President of the Solar association EU ProSun: "Europe must not be naïve about China. It is a state planned economy. Despite claiming to stand against protectionism China is doing just the opposite. Compliance with clear trade rules should be a prerequisite for any discussions."

EU ProSun points in particular to the Chinese government's program 'Manufacturing in China 2025'. Not only does this program contain a strategy for the massive expansion of the manufacturing industry in China, but also clear instructions for obtaining global domination of entire industry sectors.

China: the leader in protectionism

Milan Nitzschke: "With all the public criticism of protectionist tendencies in many regions of the world, it must not be forgotten that China is the leader of this particular type of activity. The Chinese government has expanded the state's influence in its economy in recent years. Even more alarming is the fact that they have strategically focused on taking over entire industry sectors. This has led to the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in the EU, for example, in the steel and solar sectors in recent years. We will soon see other sectors affected if Europe does not insist on China's strict compliance of international trade rules."

Distortions of competition

"Insolvencies and job losses in key technologies are not attributable to suddenly weaker performance by European engineers and companies. They are directly connected to the fact that Chinese companies sell goods that are financed by state capital, well below the cost of production and dumped onto international markets. This market distortion and unfair competition must be stopped," Nitzschke urged.

Ends.

EU ProSun represents thirty European industrial manufacturers of solar products, which have committed themselves to fair competition and the sustainable expansion of the solar industry.

More information: www.prosun.org

Email: info@prosun.org

Tel. : +49 163 70 24 864