

**Question for written answer E-000396/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Developing Europe's photovoltaic energy generation and China's decision to restrict the export of technologies in this field

The generation of solar energy increased by 23% globally in 2022<sup>1</sup>. Last summer, 12% of the EU's electricity stemmed from solar power<sup>2</sup>. From 2005 to 2021, China's share of global solar panel production rose from 6% to 70%, while that of the EU fell from 28% to less than 3%<sup>3</sup>. This year, the EU is set to double its imports of solar panels from China.

The Commission has just announced the launch of the European Solar Photovoltaic Industry Alliance. The Commissioner for the Internal Market, Thierry Breton, has stated that we must regain the means of production lost to China, which controls 80% of the global production capacity of solar panels and almost 95% of the core material, polycrystalline silicon<sup>4</sup>.

However, while China is now at the forefront of manufacturing the machines needed to produce the silicon components, the country has recently changed its rules to ban the export of several core solar panel technologies<sup>5</sup>.

1. Was the Commission expecting this decision?
2. Could this decision hamper the announced transition efforts?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ember-climate.org/insights/research/global-electricity-review-2022/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pv-magazine.fr/2022/09/12/le-solaire-a-produit-12-de-lelectricite-au-sein-de-lue-sur-lete-2022/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/panneaux-solaires-l-ecrasante-domination-de-la-chine-12-10-2022-2493541\\_24.php#11](https://www.lepoint.fr/monde/panneaux-solaires-l-ecrasante-domination-de-la-chine-12-10-2022-2493541_24.php#11)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.euractiv.fr/section/energie/news/la-commission-europeenne-lance-une-alliance-industrielle-pour-le-photovoltaique-solaire-fabrique-en-europe/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://asiatimes.com/2023/02/china-bans-export-of-core-solar-panel-technologies/>