

**Question for written answer E-002735/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Addressing the threat of Chinese competition on the sustainability of the photovoltaic sector in our Member States

The global output of photovoltaic energy has doubled since the first plants were installed¹. According to statistics² from the IEA³, the vast majority of the global supply chain for solar panels is currently owned by China. The country controls between 75% and 97% of each key step in this industry. It is against this background that, in its letter to the Commission, SolarPower Europe warns that record low prices of equipment imported mainly from China for solar power plants threaten to cripple the European solar industry and trigger a wave of bankruptcies⁴. The US has set up the IRA⁵, which establishes USD 360 billion in subsidies for clean technologies on US soil and the country is preparing to impose high tariffs on Chinese solar panel manufacturers who manufacture their products in South East Asian countries⁶.

The creation of the European Solar PV Industry Alliance was announced in December, with the aim of recouping the means of production lost to Beijing⁷. In the face of this existential challenge, what fiscal and protectionist measures does the Commission also recommend to ensure the sustainability of the photovoltaic sector in our Member States?

Submitted: 20.9.2023

¹ Cumulative installed solar PV capacity worldwide from 2000 to 2021 (in megawatts) – Statista – <https://www.statista.com/statistics/280220/global-cumulative-installed-solar-pv-capacity/>

² China currently dominates global solar PV supply chains – IEA – <https://www.iea.org/reports/solar-pv-global-supply-chains/executive-summary>

³ International Energy Agency

⁴ European solar industry may face wave of bankruptcies – SolarPower Europe – Balkan Green Energy News – 13.9.2023.

⁵ Inflation Reduction Act.

⁶ ASEAN – ECONOMICS: The US wants to charge duties on Chinese solar panels manufactured in South East Asia – Gavroche Thailand – 20.8.2023.

⁷ The European Commission launches an industrial alliance for 'made in Europe' solar power – Euractiv – 12.12.2022 – <https://www.euractiv.fr/section/energie/news/la-commission-europeenne-lance-une-alliance-industrielle-pour-le-photovoltaique-solaire-fabrique-en-europe/>