Question for written answer E-000484/2024/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Support for European solar producers

According to the EU's European Solar PV Industry Alliance, the EU is aiming to achieve 30 GW of manufacturing capacity for all links in the solar energy supply chain by 2025, resulting in 400 000 new, green jobs and greater independence from China, which is the dominant market player. Regrettably, at present it looks virtually impossible to realise that objective.

The reason for European solar producers' plight is that, for a long time, China has been engaging in market dumping driven by subsidies, poor environmental practices and the documented use of forced labour in the Xinjiang region. Fifteen years ago, Europe accounted for some 40% of solar panel production; today the figure is less than 5%. China now accounts for more than 80% – even more in other sections of the supply chain.

Solar energy is forecast to be the world's greatest source of power in a few decades' time. At the same time, however, making ourselves so dependent on the world's largest dictatorship is totally unsustainable.

1. Since the Commission is not ruling out taking trade protection measures, does it intend to do any analysis of its own, with the possibility of action, on the Chinese dumping of the market for solar cell materials?

2. When can we expect to see the new, green jobs in the EU as a result of aggressive efforts to bring PV manufacturing back to Europe?

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