



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate C – Green Transition and Energy System Integration
C.1 – Renewables and Energy System Integration Policy

Brussels

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By email only:



Subject: Your letter of 3 August 2022

Ref.: Ares(2022)5566975

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter to the Director-General Juhl Jørgensen regarding solar supply chains and your suggestions. I have been asked to reply on her behalf.

Adopted on 18 May, as part of the REPowerEU package, the EU Solar Energy Strategy¹ sets out a comprehensive vision for an EU policy on solar energy, including on the supply side.

The strategy refers to the supply chain risks which you also point at. It recognises that the marginal EU contribution in the manufacturing and assembly stages of the supply chain, combined with the quasi-monopolistic role of one country at the components stage at global level, diminishes the EU's resilience in case of extensive external supply disruptions and creates risks for accelerated solar energy deployment.

¹ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION EU Solar Energy Strategy COM(2022)221 of 18.5.2022

To address that weakness, the strategy proposes in particular an EU Solar PV Industry Alliance, which the Commission plans to launch by the end of the year. The alliance will aim to bring together the stakeholders, identify and coordinate investment opportunities, project pipelines and technology portfolios. The document also highlights EU funds that are particularly relevant in this context.

In addition, the strategy also highlights the potential role of Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI). The Commission recently issued a guidance regarding criteria for IPCEI², *inter alia* relating to their innovativeness.

As you point out, the updated State Aid Guidelines for climate, environmental protection and energy³ allow for the introduction of non-price criteria in the allocation of aid, up to 30% of the weighting and we see Member States making use of this disposition.

Finally, sustainability criteria applying to photovoltaic panels will also be addressed through eco-design requirements.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

² COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION Criteria for the analysis of the compatibility with the internal market of State aid to promote the execution of important projects of common European interest (2021/C 528/02) of 30.12.2021

³ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION Guidelines on State aid for climate, environmental protection and energy 2022 (2022/C 80/01) of 18.02.2022