

Meeting with Enel
23 June 2022

Enel: [REDACTED]

ENER: [REDACTED]

Manufacturing sector

- ENEL's view is that IPCEIs - increasing EU manufacture could be tackled via IPCEI. COM commented that it is proving difficult to gather enough MS, partly because they have to agree on how to share the different element in the value chain. IT is one of the countries that has not joined an IPCEI on solar.
- COM presented the upcoming Industrial Alliance – will try to gather all relevant stakeholders to streamline the projects and discuss financing. It will have an R&I pillar with funds for research in solar energy. Enel would like to participate.
- COM also referred to the Innovation Fund, in which Enel participated to secure financing for its PV plant in Sicily. Nevertheless, the scope of the Innovation Fund is very wide and it will not be a solar-specific support tool. Another tool mentioned by COM was InvestEU, it can help de-risk financing.

Sustainability

- COM highlights the importance of recycling and circularity. Enel is currently exploring the usage of recycled plastic in PV manufacture.
- Both COM and Enel underline the importance of ensuring that there is no forced labour in the PV value chain. Enel has this into account when buying from China, COM's Solar Strategy includes a follow-up initiative to end up forced labour; nevertheless, it is not focussed on the sector.
- COM also considers introducing a carbon content threshold for PVs in it's the upcoming eco-design requirements, currently in public consultation, to which Enel is invited to participate. Enel sees this as a positive development and already applies sustainability criteria in its acquisition decisions, including carbon content.

Solar - innovative forms of deployment

- COM's upcoming guidance on innovative forms of solar deployment will look into agri-PV, VIPV, floating PV, among others.
- Enel has many successful agri-PV projects e.g. in ES and offers COM a meeting with the colleagues responsible for that.
- Enel has also floating PV projects e.g. in IT, they explain it is difficult to understand the environmental impact this can have in natural lakes.

PPAs

- In the past, Enel was focused on auctions, but now these have become too competitive, so they are turning their heads towards PPAs. PPAs are very popular among technology enterprises.
- Enel develops initiatives to increase public acceptance: in some instances, Enel helps local residents to install their own solar panels; in others, they are given priority to invest in the plants, so that they can have revenues from them. The electricity generated is sold via PPAs, not consumed by the citizens.

- They also have international PPAs projects, like the project Tico in ES, which feeds companies around Europe as ES allows this relocation.