

[REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Report of meeting with Solar Power Europe of 7 February 2020

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 6:08 PM
To: UJUPAN Alina-Stefania (CAB-VESTAGER) <Alina-Stefania.UJUPAN@ec.europa.eu>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Report of meeting with Solar Power Europe of 7 February 2020

Dear Alina

Please find below the report of the meeting with Solar Power Europe representatives which took place last Friday. Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any comments.

Report of meeting with Solar Power Europe of 7 February 2020

Participants:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Alina-Stefania UJUPAN, CAB Vestager
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Solar Power Europe (SPE) requested the meeting to discuss the possible role of solar energy in the future energy transition as announced in the European Green Deal. SPE is an European solar industrial association, representing over 200 companies active in Europe across the solar value chain. SPE introduced the sector by explaining that although today solar power represents 5% in the EU energy mix, it is growing significantly (last year it expanded by 100% adding 17GW of solar power in the EU). SPE estimates that by 2030 solar power could represent 20% of electricity production in the EU. With this expansion the production costs of the raw materials are going down. SPE explained that with the increased demand for solar power in Asia a significant part of the EU production moved to China. However, with the new ambitious climate targets, there is an increased demand for solar power in the EU, which creates a window of opportunity to bring the solar manufacturing back to Europe. SPE also pointed out that there is a strong R&D for solar power in the EU but without a strong manufacturing base (interested in financially supporting the EU research) the R&D for solar would also disappear in the EU.

SPE underlined that the solar photovoltaic materials do not contain any cobalt, lithium or rare earth. In terms of recyclability, currently there is not enough waste streams to invest into proper recycling (solar panels last around 30 years), but with increased use of the solar power already today research and preparations are done into structured recycling of the solar panels. A. Ujupan invited SPE to contribute to the public consultation and provide their views on the Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe and explain what policy initiatives they would see fit to deliver on the Green Deal. SPE explained that Climate Law should also provide for financial instrument (on a commercial basis) to enable investments into solar power productions in the EU. SPE also expressed a regret that there is no separate strategy for developing the renewables industry in the EU. In particular SPE pointed out that due to coronavirus in China there might be soon shortage of solar panels and this is yet another example that the EU should not rely solely on imports. Finally, SPE stated that solar power should be given a more prominent role in the Renovation Waive Strategy, including putting renewables targets.

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