

[REDACTED]

From: CAB VESTAGER ARCHIVES
Sent: mercredi 17 février 2021 16:23
To: CAB VESTAGER CONTACT
Subject: FW: Minutes for registration: SolarPower Europe / CAB Vestager – Discussion on EEAG revision – 17 February 2021

SolarPower Europe / CAB Vestager – Discussion on EEAG revision – 17 February 2021

SolarPower Europe:

- [REDACTED]
-

CAB Vestager: Kim JORGENSEN, Anne FUNCH JENSEN,
COMP: [REDACTED]

1. SolarPower Europe presented slides showing:
 - a. Solar becoming most globally cost effective source of electricity and likely to become the largest installed capacity in Europe in 5 years.
 - b. Strong growth in installed capacity despite COVID (18 GW installed in 2020 = 11% more than in 2019)
 - c. Anticipate continued rapid growth – eg. 45 GW extra installed in 2024.
2. SolarPower Europe said that tech-specific support – based on EUR per megawatt hour rather than EUR per tCO2 reduced – is key to reduce financing costs.
3. SolarPower Europe said that in the Netherlands where solar was in competition with other technologies for reducing carbon emissions, 2bn of the 5bn budget in 2020 went to carbon capture and storage projects.
4. SolarPower Europe said that criteria other than price may be important when selecting projects – for example, to stimulate innovation (eg. floating solar) which is currently more expensive.
5. CAB Vestager explained that the EEAG revision process is ongoing and that a contribution to the forthcoming Q2 consultation on draft guidelines would be welcome.
6. CAB Vestager asked how the problems Solar Power Europe identified in their paper related to projects competing and winning in bidding processes but then not actually developing projects could be addressed without creating barriers to entry for new competitors. SolarPower Europe said COMP should check when approving support schemes that there are rules in place to ensure project realisation – eg. requiring bidders to post collateral or having strict timelines for developing projects. SolarPower Europe said it was important that a threshold was maintained below which no tenders were required.
7. CAB Vestager asked about whether any special rules were needed to ensure repowering does not lead to technology lock-in / reduce innovation. SolarPower Europe said they had no specific recommendations on repowering and that this was a new issue for solar as projects are generally more recent than wind projects and the repowering cycle has not yet started. Regardless, new capacity would also be needed.
8. CAB Vestager recalled the importance that SA rules enable the green transition but that competition rules also have a role ensuring we avoid wasteful subsidy races and supporting preferred technologies regardless of their merits.