

**Ursula von der Leyen**

President of the European Commission

**Frans Timmermans**

Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal

**Maroš Šefčovič**

Vice-President for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight

**Thierry Breton**

Commissioner for the Internal Market

**Kadri Simson**

Commissioner for Energy

**Virginijus Sinkevičius**

Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries

Brussels, 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2020

Dear President,

Dear Executive Vice-President,

Dear Vice-President,

Dear Commissioners,

**SolarPower Europe and EIT InnoEnergy** are leading stakeholders in the European solar power value chain. Together, we strongly welcome the coordinated response given by the EU and its Member States to the economic and social impact of the coronavirus crisis. The **Next Generation EU recovery package** and the decision that at **least 30% of the funds will go to Green Deal** related topics will undoubtedly have a decisive impact on the **sustainable recovery** of the EU economy.

Within the Green Deal (as one key building block of the growth strategy for Europe), and aligned with the 2030 objectives, the renewables target of 32% (and potentially higher) is an opportunity also to rebuild **industrial strategic value chains** which will **create EU jobs, EU growth and EU resilience**.

This letter **pledges for your support to launch a European Solar Initiative (ESI)**, resembling the success of the **European Battery Alliance (EBA)**, which has been able to mobilise in 2019 investments (60B€) coming to Europe, surpassing China who had a massive lead only 2 years ago. The 2020 data confirms this trend. (<https://blogs.platts.com/2020/07/30/deglobalization-lithium-battery-supply-chain/>)

Some **conditions for the success of the ESA** are similar to that of the European Battery Alliance:

1. A **hockey stick demand pull**: The NECPs (National Energy and Climate Plans) of the Member States pledge **20 GW of new solar PV deployed per year, until 2030**. The recent **pledge to achieve climate-neutrality by 2050 and related negotiations to increase Europe's 2030 CO2 target**, make the prospect for growth significantly higher.
2. A **strong and global technological leadership in cutting-edge, sustainable solar PV technologies** in wafers (i.e. NexWafe) and cells (Heterojunction, Perovskites,...), and other segments of the value

chain. Europe remains the leader in next generation solar PV technologies, outperforming Asian competitors and creating a golden opportunity for Europe's solar re-industrialisation.

3. A reasonably **strong ecosystem**, well managed over the last years by **SolarPower Europe**, covering all the steps of the **value chain**.
4. Sizeable new investments in Europe (*Oxford PV, July 2019, +70 M€; Meyer Burger, July 2020, 160M€*), signaling **investors' appetite** to come back to solar PV assets.
5. Strong **Research and Innovation centres** (i.e. Fraunhofer, CEA, IMEC,...), leaders in the upcoming and cutting-edge technologies.
6. Several **manufacturing initiatives, GW scale**, on the drawing table of credible parties.

We are not asking specifically for financial support, but for appointing a sponsor, at the highest EU level, which, within the *to be created* European Solar Initiative, will mobilise the EU bodies and rally the Member States to **create the enabling framework for success, using the successful blueprint that was developed and implemented in EBA**.

This extra push could consolidate a recurring **40B€ fresh GDP per year 2023 onwards**, representing **400.000 new direct and indirect jobs in the EU** solar industry.

**Time is of the essence**, thus we would appreciate if, in the frame of the upcoming ECOFIN (6<sup>th</sup> October) or COMPET Council (18<sup>th</sup> September), you would **publicly endorse the initiative**, and we could work together and prepare for an operational launch in **November 2020**; contributing to the **new jobs and growth that Europe needs**.

Yours,

