










Flash report.

On 07 February 2018, Mr Juraj Nociar, Head of Cabinet of VP Šefčovič, met with  SolarPower Europe. JN was accompanied by Dagmara Koska (DK), Member of the Cabinet of VP Šefčovič and  Trainee at the Cabinet of VP Šefčovič.

The meeting was used by  to present the findings of two recent studies underlining the position of SolarPower Europe in favour of removing tariff measures from modules and cells imported from China to the EU.

The COM stayed in a listening mode and stressed that it will keep the issue in mind when the decision about the prolongation of the measures will be made in September 2018.

Key issues raised:

-  presented the association's view point on the current tariff measures. He stressed that since 2015 the association has opposed the measures due to their alleged detrimental effects when taking into consideration the entire value chain. Between 2013, the date of introduction, to 2015 the association did not express any viewpoint.
-  presented the findings of a recently published study compiled by EY showing that over 40.000 new jobs could be created in 2019 if the tariff measures from modules and cells imported from China were not prolonged.
-  stressed that this would be a significant number since the report also found that at today's rate of installation just over 80.000 people were employed in the sector. Hence, removing the measures could potentially increase jobs by 50%.
- Additionally,  presented the results of the study "Residential Prosumers in the European Energy Union" that was carried out for DG Justice and Consumers, detailing the current regulatory regime in Europe impacting solar self-consumers in Europe today. The report also recommends the removal of trade measures, arguing that it would engender an uptake of rooftop solar by some 20-30% in comparison to the baseline scenario.
- With respect to the position of MS on the tariff measures, JW underlined, that it is difficult to tell since classical positions on tariff measures are eroding. However, Italy still is very much in favour, as is also Spain. The Northern countries have expressed concerns about a further prolonging.
-  also highlighted the significant potential he sees in BIPV (building integrated PV), something that Europe should build on in order to regain some competitive advantage.
-  also invited VP Šefčovič to the trade fair "Intersolar and Storage" taking place in Munich on 20-22 June 2018.