

January 31, 2024

**Statement from PVthin in response to the letter from the PV industry Resilience Alliance:
„Making the energy transition resilient and securing the competitiveness of Europe's solar
industry with the help of the Solar Package I!“**

PVthin, the leading association for thin-film PV worldwide, notes with great interest the measures proposed by the German Solar Industry Association (BSW) and the Resilience Alliance to strengthen European solar PV manufacturing. As an association that represents the entire thin-film PV value chain, we endorse the call to promote local value creation through government support, thereby strengthening the resilience and independence of the European supply of solar modules.

It is important, however, to emphasize that the proposed government support (i.e., a “resilience bonus”) can only be a first step towards building a competitive European solar industry. It should function as a short-term instrument to help levelling the playing field between European and Chinese module manufacturers, thereby providing urgent support to European manufacturers currently in severe distress. In order to establish a long-term competitive solar industry, we need to implement additional measures to enable Europe to capitalize on its technological leadership and become the global manufacturing center for future solar PV technologies.

Europe must pave the way by emphasizing the need to lead in more sustainable and innovative solutions, and focusing on the next generation PV, including technologies which do not rely on polysilicon. This can be done through policy instruments which value and reward the highest environmental and social standards, i.e., by introducing sustainability and resilience criteria. Therefore, these policies contribute to independence, promote long-term competitiveness, and social and environmental sustainability in PV supply chains, while achieving Europe’s climate targets. Most importantly, they contribute to compliance with human rights standards in an industry vulnerable to forced labor.

PVthin therefore supports the call for a rapid introduction of a resilience bonus scheme for all market segments that is accompanied by strict social and environmental standards.

We stand ready to actively contribute to the implementation of these policies and to shape a competitive, sustainable, and resilient future for the European solar industry for a just energy transition.



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