

**Priority question for written answer P-000363/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: European solar manufacturing industry

Solar energy is anticipated to become the world's biggest energy source in the coming decades. Simultaneously, the manufacturing of solar modules and other materials is diminishing in Europe. Swiss solar manufacturer Meyer Burger has announced its plan to shut down its assembly plant for solar modules in Germany, the largest in Europe with 500 employees, if policymakers do not provide sufficient support under the current distorted market situation. Similar closure announcements have been made by Heckert Solar (DE), Solarwatt (DE), Norwegian Crystal (NO), REC Solar (NO), Norsun (NO), Exasun (NL), and Energetic (AT).

Currently, 80 % of solar modules are manufactured in China. China has also gained control of 95 % of the global capacity for other components. This goes against the EU's objective of strategic autonomy. In addition, the EU faces significant costs in terms of job losses and investments, not to mention the considerable environmental impact of the industry in China and the widespread use of forced labour.

The European solar manufacturing industry is urgently seeking concrete measures to save itself now. In this context, what measures will the Commission take in the immediate future to save European solar manufacturing?

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