



## The International Thin-Film Solar Industry Association (PVthin) a.i.s.b.l.

### PVthin Condemns Forced Labour in the Solar PV Supply Chain

The International Thin-Film Solar Industry Association (PVthin) categorically condemns the use of forced labour in solar photovoltaic (PV) supply chains and firmly supports the European Commission's strategy to promote decent work worldwide and its pledge to prepare a new legislative instrument to effectively ban forced labour products in the EU market.

Over the course of 2021, a number of credible reports have emerged identifying serious issues around exposure to forced labour in the solar sector, in particular linked to polysilicon manufacturing and processing in certain regions. Ninety-five percent of solar modules today rely on solar-grade polysilicon.

Solar PV is at the heart of the energy transition and the fight against climate change. The International Energy Agency estimates that, in order to achieve climate neutrality, solar and wind will need to generate 70% of all electricity worldwide by 2050<sup>1</sup>. The rollout of renewable energy technology must not come at the expense of human rights or the use of forced labour.

Earlier in 2021, G7 leaders in Cornwall, UK, expressed concern at state-sponsored forced labour in the solar sector and committed to eradicate the use of all forms of forced labour in global supply chains<sup>2</sup>. A number of major jurisdictions have already taken action to address this issue. In June 2021, the United States implemented several actions addressing forced labour in the PV sector, including a *Withhold Release Order* on certain silica-based products and the inclusion of polysilicon produced with forced labour on the Department of Labor's "List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor"<sup>3</sup>.

The European Union also has a critical role to play here. President Ursula von der Leyen has [announced](#)<sup>4</sup> that the Commission is preparing a new legislative instrument to effectively ban products made by forced labour from entering the EU market. PVthin strongly supports this commitment. An import ban or equivalent import control mechanism would maximise legal certainty for the solar industry and support frontrunners who are able to document the absence of forced labour in their supply chains. A targeted import ban will also be complementary to the European Commission's new proposal for a [Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence](#)<sup>5</sup> which aims to foster sustainable and responsible corporate behaviour throughout global value chains and places more stringent due diligence obligations on companies operating within the EU.

PVthin welcomes the EU's commitment and encourages other jurisdictions to put forward bold measures to remove forced labour from the solar sector. We stand ready to support policymakers and other stakeholders working to permanently address this issue.

*PVthin - the International Thin-Film Solar Industry Association - is an international, not-for-profit coalition representing global leaders in the Thin-Film Solar Industry and broader value chain based on chalcogenide perovskite, tandem and heterojunction PV technologies. For further information about our positions, please contact us at [Secretariat@pvthin.org](mailto:Secretariat@pvthin.org)*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/50361/carbis-bay-g7-summit-communique.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/24/fact-sheet-new-u-s-government-actions-on-forced-labor-in-xinjiang/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_1187](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1187)

<sup>5</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_22\\_1145](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1145)