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Europe needs intact, thriving value chains for each renewable energy technology insists Clean Energy Industry Forum in Brussels on 09 January 2018

- ETIP PV calls for 20 GW of PV installations per year in Europe, with one third of the supported market reserved for high-quality products Made-in-Europe
- PV researchers call for digitalised, easily reconfigurable pilot production lines to de-risk new technology.

The renewable energy section of the Clean Energy Industrial Forum met for the first time yesterday at a high-level event hosted by the European Commission. The Forum urged the Commission to take bold action to build up Europe's renewable energy industry. Many speakers, representing the diversity of the renewable energy sector, insisted on industrial policy support for all steps in their technology's value chain, crucially including manufacturing. They urged Europe to aim for high-quality products. Julien Pouget, Senior Vice-President Renewables at Total, called for "quality, sustainability and eco-friendliness" to become criteria for products to be on the European market. Others joined him, calling for the EU to press its high standards on the countries it trades with to prevent carbon leakage.

Stefan Rinck, CEO of Singulus Technologies, Germany, was ETIP PV's representative at the meeting. He called for 20 GW of PV installations per year in Europe. Within this, he said, at least "a third of the supported market [e.g. through tenders] should be for sustainable high-quality products." The criteria would be chosen to suit existing European manufacturers or manufacturing start-ups. China has a similar measure with its 'Top Runner' programme.

Florence Lambert, CEO of CEATECH LITEN (a big French research institute), joined Jef Poortmans (PV Program Director at IMEC) in calling for "pilot lines for pre-series production runs to decrease the risk for potential investors" in new technology. These lines, said Poortmans, should be reconfigurable to accommodate several process technologies and different cell processing flows. Lambert said it would be unwise for Europe to stake all on the downstream end of the PV value chain: "We won't keep our leadership by only integrating renewable energy technology." This, she said, is



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something Asian companies “will be able to do”, with the difference that they will ultimately have better “core technology” to integrate.

Dominique Ristori (Director General of DG Energy) chaired the meeting. He summed up saying that Europe’s technology reaches the “highest standards and quality.” The EU should “focus on innovation and the use of the most advanced products.” Earlier, responding to speakers’ individual statements, he twice agreed that ensuring the long-term future for complete technology value chains was “fundamental”.

Note to editors:

The European Commission’s intention to create a **Clean Energy Industrial Forum** was first announced on 30 Nov 2016 in [COM\(2016\) 860](#). The Forum contains three sections: batteries for transport (first meeting [11 Oct 2017](#)), construction (first meeting coming up) and this one on renewables, whose members are mostly business leaders (CEOs or senior managers).

The European Technology and Innovation Platform Photovoltaics (**ETIP PV**) is a continuation of the European PV Technology Platform (EU PVTP) and the Solar European Industry Initiative (SEII) in a single platform under the new SET Plan governance. The ETIP PV’s mission is in line with the Energy Union and the SET Plan priorities with focus on “Renewable technologies at the heart of the new energy system” and Europe to become “number 1 in renewables”. ETIP PV gathers all the relevant stakeholders of the PV sector, with arrangements for cooperative discussions with member states (MS), associated countries (AC), and the Commission services. Its main role is to provide consensus-based strategic advice on all issues relevant to progressing research and innovation (R&I) efforts.

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