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Consistent framework can open the doors to massive BIPV deployment in Europe

HAMBURG, 16 SEPTEMBER 2015 – The Workshop “Reaching out for opportunities in Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV)” was successfully held yesterday in the CCH Congress Centre Hamburg as an official parallel event of the 31st European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition (EU PVSEC 2015).

Co-organised by the European Photovoltaic Technology Platform (EU PV Platform) and the International Energy Agency Photovoltaic Power Systems Programme (IEA PVPS) Task 15, the event brought together over 140 experts in the sector throughout its two sessions with the aim to discuss technology and industry developments as well as the market and policies currently driving the BIPV sector in Europe.

“We are happy to see so many experts from both PV and Building Industries interested in contributing to the discussions and the development of BIPV,” said Mr Marko Topič, Chair of the European Photovoltaic Technology Platform. “There are already more than a hundred market-ready BIPV prototypes available. These need, however, an appropriate enabling framework that facilitates the scale-up of the production and the drop of costs”, continued Mr Topič.

The morning session covered “Market, Policies and BIPV Development Drivers” and was chaired by Mr Michiel Ritzen, Operating Agent of the IEA PVPS Task 15. The session addressed some specific barriers that BIPV development needs to overcome in order to successfully accelerate its deployment. “From the discussions it is clear that in order to become mainstream, BIPV production needs to be scaled up, supported by a good regulatory framework, building industry orientated databases, healthy business models, demonstration areas, simulation and assessment software. In the end, we need BIPV to avoid the development of the undesirable ‘Not On My Roof’ (NoMyR) opposition by potential customers”, highlighted Mr Ritzen.

The afternoon session, focused on “Technology and Industry Developments”. Mr Marko Topič chaired the event and reminded the audience that the workshop was a part of a set of efforts by the EU PV Platform aiming to shorten a communication gap between the PV and Building industries. Yesterday’s event, for instance, was a follow-up to the Annual Conference of the EU PV Platform, held at the Royal Institute of British Architects in July 2015, where fruitful exchanges between both sectors were already initiated.

The PV Platform urged in the afternoon to the need of interdisciplinary collaboration in the fields of Energy Efficiency and RES integration in buildings, based on the EU target for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) until 2020. The PV Platform presented

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the huge potential of BIPV within the EU, where the share of renewables in NZEB is estimated for 30% in N-Europe and up to 90% in S-Europe. Ms Silke Krawietz, Leader of the PV Platform BIPV Ad Hoc Working Group, mentioned that some results of these efforts to collaborate could already be seen during the interdisciplinary BIPV event in London. "For many years we see the great potential of BIPV in Europe. Many architects, however, are not aware of the best possibilities of integrating PV into buildings. BIPV has lots of design possibilities and needs the collaboration of building industry, architects and developers, together with efforts from the PV industry, in order to enhance innovation and competitiveness in the sector. It is a unique opportunity for the European PV Industry to bring the BIPV market from a niche market to mainstream", said Ms Krawietz.

According to the EU PV Platform, further collaborations could allow the integration of PV into the building skin from early design phases, which would result into several opportunities for the sector, enabling the creation of jobs and the achievement of EU's climate goals. The development of BIPV, however, would need to be led by flexibility, in terms of colour, shape and aesthetics of the modules as well as on the electrical level.

BIPV and the PV sector in general require now a clear sign from European authorities that self-consumption will not be constrained by restrictive taxes, fees and changes in grid financing. The development of BIPV in Europe needs also a fully integrated roadmap, with guaranteed market development opportunities, R&D&D financing at national and European level and investment in industrial capacities development. A paradigm shift is needed in the PV industry to support collaboration between building and BIPV sectors in order to encourage investments, supporting innovation and competitiveness in order to achieve European leadership in the market.

The discussions held both in London and Hamburg are expected to be formalised soon in a position paper to be sent to the European Commission.

The EU PV Platform has also recently issued a fact sheet ([available here](#)) summarising some key aspects related to BIPV in the Built Environment, Economics and the market segment in the EU.

The presentations will be available on www.eupvplatform.org.

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Note to editors:

The European Photovoltaic Technology Platform is an initiative that intends to mobilise all the actors sharing a European vision and ambition for photovoltaic solar energy. The PV Platform is an independent and objective body, which aims to be the recognised point of reference for key decision and policy makers. The Platform's Mission is to develop a strategy and corresponding implementation plan for education, research and technology development, innovation and market deployment of photovoltaic solar energy.

The IEA Photovoltaic Power Systems Programme (PVPS) is one of the collaborative R&D Agreements established within the IEA and, since its establishment in 1993, the PVPS participants have been conducting a variety of joint projects in the application of photovoltaic conversion of solar energy into electricity.

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