

Brussels, 26th January 2015

Marko Topič elected as Chairman of the European Photovoltaic Technology Platform



Brussels, 26th January 2015 – Prof. Marko Topič, Head of Laboratory of Photovoltaics and Optoelectronics of the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, was elected as the new Chairman of the EU PV Technology Platform (EU PVTP). The election was held during the last EU PVTP Steering Committee Meeting and took place on 16th December 2014 in Brussels, Belgium.

Prof. Topič has been the Chairman of the Slovenian Photovoltaic Technology Platform since 2006. He is a Full Professor at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at the University of Ljubljana and he has a very broad research experience in Photovoltaics, Thin-film Semiconductor Materials, Electron Devices, Optoelectronics, Electronic Circuits, and Reliability Engineering. He is a member of the Slovenian Academy of Engineering and has received several prestigious awards, including the Zoisova nagrada 2008 (the highest award of the Republic of Slovenia for Scientific and Research Achievements).

The EU PVTP, which has developed joint European strategies and plans for innovation and deployment of photovoltaics since 2007, brings together key stakeholders from the photovoltaic sector and is a grouping of 70 science and business experts from the PV and closely-related industries. With its unique independent position and broad coverage of expertise, the EU PVTP plays a major role for public and private entities. In his new role as Chairman of the EU PV Technology Platform, Marko Topič is engaged to foster its role as independent entity providing strategic guidance for its stakeholders on the development of technologies related to Photovoltaics that will address the future needs of electricity in the European Energy Union.

“The Photovoltaic sector has gone through a dynamic, but overall successful decade with periods of market-driven, industry-driven and research-driven innovation. We see research and innovation as a key enabler for successful continuation of EU to be at the forefront and remain a leader R&D&I for photovoltaics and hence, to be able to seize the great economic opportunities associated with its growth in European and global markets.”

European PVTP welcomes President Juncker's vision of Europe's Energy Union to become the world number one in renewable energies. The 315 b€ investment plan should path the implementation of the policy agenda of President Juncker. Europe should sharpen framework conditions to maintain a leading role as promoter of effective policies and solutions, and the opportunities offered by its industries as providers of advanced technologies for a global low carbon economy. Advances in technology and efficiency give reasons for optimism, but sustained political efforts will be essential to change energy trends for the better and to realize the Europe's vision.”



Wim Sinke and Gaëtan Masson elected as Vice-Chairmen

Wim Sinke, former Chairman of the EU PVTP and programme development manager at ECN Solar Energy, and Gaëtan Masson, Director of the Becquerel Institute, were elected as Vice-Chairmen of the EU PV Technology Platform.



Wim Sinke has been involved in the Platform and its predecessor, PV TRAC, from their establishment. He has been the Chairman of the EU PVTP from 2008 to 2014.

"The 'PV job' is not yet done. The new Vision paper of the EU PVTP, which I co-authored and fully support, marks the beginning of a new era for PV and for the Platform. Developing the PV sector further along the lines of (European)

energy and economy is crucial for public and political support and thus, for success. This will not be easy, but that is exactly the reason why a common voice and joint action are so important. I am particularly committed to two challenges addressed by the Platform: defining strategic priorities for research and innovation (in relation to short and longer-term success of the European PV sector) and helping to formulate and communicate powerful and inspiring messages about the benefits of PV for energy, environment and economy. In Brussels and in member states; for laymen, experts, politicians, entrepreneurs, students, and more. I have done this countless times over the past decades, look forward to continue to do this. This should be done together with other sectors where possible and feasible. The times of operating in isolation are over."



Gaëtan Masson, Electromechanical Engineer from the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium, is the Director of the Becquerel Institute. The Becquerel Institute is a PV-focused company and research center founded in 2014. It focuses on various aspects of PV development, from market analysis to competitiveness, electricity markets integration and industry development, in Europe and globally.

After more than 10 years in the financial and IT sectors, he moved to the PV industry and developed the Business Intelligence unit of EPIA, the European PV Industry Association. Since 2013, he is the Operating Agent of the Task 1 of the PV programme of the International Energy Agency (IEA PVPS), a group of international experts focusing on PV markets and industry research. He is part of the Scientific Committee of the EU-PVSEC and Intersolar conferences.

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