

Clean technology support in Europe:
Call from the European solar thermal sector and its supporters
to European and national leaders – 6th May 2026

Following the release of the Industrial Accelerator Act¹ on 4th March 2026 by the European Commission and the last-minute removal of solar thermal from key provisions in the text, we, undersigned manufacturers, stakeholders and supporters of the solar thermal sector in Europe, strongly believe that this removal risks undermining demand signals for EU-made solar thermal and is in contradiction with the stated aims of both the IAA and the Net-Zero Industry Act Regulation².

We, manufacturers, stakeholders and supporters of the solar thermal sector in Europe:

- Fully support the statement in the IAA which highlights that “net-zero technologies are a source of EU’s industrial strength and should be granted a global level-playing field in light of unfairly subsidised overcapacities by third countries.”
- Represent, for almost the entirety of our sector, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises well established in their communities, creating local growth, skilled jobs and economic value.
- Meet around 90% of the current European demand for solar thermal technologies and can easily ramp up production, with more than 100 manufacturing sites across Europe.
- Represent a vibrant industry, with many companies exporting worldwide.

However, in spite of EU projections³, constant innovation in the sector and development of enhanced technologies, we have been observing lately a worrying declining market in Europe. Yet, our technologies are renewable, ready to deploy, affordable and made in Europe, offering a reliable, resilient and proven source of clean energy. This situation is mostly due to:

- Constant ‘stop and go’ in the EU markets due to inconsistent public policy signals and public schemes, particularly in the building sector, as well as an insufficient number of large-scale projects in industry or district heating.
- A growing and aggressive competition from extra-European manufacturers of solar thermal products, both in Europe and globally, due to dumped raw materials prices and more favourable conditions of access to markets.
- A fierce competition among heating technologies in Europe driven by uneven and uncertain policy signals.
- Unfair competition from massive imports of dumped PV modules, with very low prices, directly competing with solar thermal collectors for the same rooftop space.

The last-minute unjustified deletion of the references to solar thermal in the IAA seriously risks further weakening demand signals for EU manufactured solar thermal collectors,

¹ [Industrial Accelerator Act - Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs](#)

² [Regulation - EU - 2024/1735 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

³ The [EU Solar Energy Strategy](#) called to triple the energy demand covered by solar heat.

tilting the playing field towards cheaper imports and undermining the European solar thermal value chain that supports thousands of manufacturing and skilled supply chain jobs across the EU.

In light of the above, in the spirit of the IAA to “boost demand for European low-carbon industrial products and net-zero technologies”, and consistently with the provisions of the Net-Zero Industry Act Regulation from 2024 clearly acknowledging the solar thermal technology:

We are calling on European and national policymakers to:

- **Reintroduce solar thermal collectors in the IAA under the provisions related to**
 - **Origin requirements for public procurement procedures (Modification to the Regulation (EU) 2024/1735 (NZIA), under Article 28h (8), Annex II, Part I)**
 - **Origin requirements for other forms of public intervention (Modification to the Regulation (EU) 2024/1735 (NZIA), under Article 28h (8), Annex II, Part III)**
- **Establish a coherent regulatory framework, including clear policy support for the EU-based solar thermal sector and clear promotion of this technology through:**
 - **Adequate visibility for solar thermal energy, on an equal footing with other renewable technologies, enhancing the benefits of technology coupling.**
 - **A dedicated European strategy for solar thermal energy, promoting European excellence in this sector, notably through ambitious targets.**

Our sector invests, innovates and decarbonises access to energy for citizens and industries every day, and stands ready to meet a growing demand.

Solar thermal energy can make a vital contribution to the continent's energy transition and energy independence.

We call on policy makers to recognise this contribution by moving from words to action.

Solar Heat Europe and its members remain available for a constructive and open dialogue to progress the above measures. We count on your support to give visibility to a truly “made in Europe” renewable technology which is ready to scale up. Thank you.

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Manufacturers



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