

ContainerPower Energy Solutions

Exporting solar modules to the EU



Overview

Solar PV modules destined for the European Economic Area (EEA) – which comprises the 27 EU members, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – Switzerland and the UK will be required to come from manufacturing sites that are certified against both the SSI Environmental, Social and Corporate governance (ESG) Standard, which was launched in October 2023, and Supply Chain Traceability Standards, which was launched in December 2024. What is the EU export value of solar panels?

By contrast, the EU export value of wind turbines (€2.8 billion) was much higher than the corresponding value for imports. The EU import value of solar panels decreased by 43% between 2023 and 2024 (see Figure 2), due to a drop in prices, even though the quantity imported slightly increased by +2%.

How many solar PV modules are made in Europe?

Today, at least 38 European solar PV module production equipment manufacturers operate on the continent, in nine countries (DE, FR, IT, NL, CH, ES, HU, FI, NO). Most - 75% - are active in the cells and modules equipment manufacturing segment.

What is the EU export value of solar panels & biofuels in 2024?

The EU import values of solar panels and liquid biofuels in 2024 were much higher than the corresponding EU export values which were €0.7 billion for solar panels and €1.8 billion for liquid biofuels. By contrast, the EU export value of wind turbines (€2.8 billion) was much higher than the corresponding value for imports.

Which countries import solar panels & biofuels in 2024?

In 2024, China was the largest origin of extra-EU imports of solar panels and liquid biofuels and second largest for wind turbines. In 2024, the United Kingdom was the largest destination for extra-EU exports of wind turbines and second largest for solar panels and liquid biofuels.

Why did the EU import value of solar panels decrease in 2023?

The EU import value of solar panels decreased by 43% between 2023 and 2024 (see Figure 2), due to a drop in prices, even though the quantity imported slightly increased by +2%. During the same period the value of EU imports of liquid biofuels decreased by -25% while the quantity fell by 14%.

What is the role of European companies in the solar industry?

In the solar sector, European companies originally played a key role in developing the production equipment needed for the mass production of solar wafers, cells, and modules. While the rise of China's solar manufacturing sector initially provided a significant export market, a highly competitive local industry has since emerged.

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