



Brussels, 17 September 2010

European Commission consultation on the Raw Materials Initiative

EPIA – the European Photovoltaic Industry Association – thanks the European Commission for giving the possibility to its stakeholders to express their views on the Raw Materials Initiative.

EPIA agrees with the overall goal of the EC to ensure that the EU industry has fair access to critical raw materials at international level playing field conditions.

The Report of the High Level Group on Raw Materials has identified 14 materials critical to the EU industry.

Some of these critical substances, in particular gallium, indium and germanium, can be contained in thin film photovoltaic applications, whose market volume is expected to grow in the next years. According to EPIA forecasts, in 2020 one third of the total annual PV world market could be constituted by thin film applications, which in numbers, according to our advanced scenario, would correspond to a yearly installed capacity of more than 12GW.

One of the recommendations contained in the HLG RM Report suggests that recycling of end-use applications could significantly contribute to address the criticality of raw materials and should therefore be encouraged by the EU policy makers.

EPIA would like to stress that the photovoltaic industry is organising itself in order to collect and recycle end-of-life PV panels placed on the EU market. This will be done through the PV CYCLE voluntary scheme, which aims to make sure that all modules placed on the EU market before January 2010 and all modules shipped to the EU after January 2010 by PV CYCLE member companies are collected and that 85% of them is recycled. The recyclers that will be selected through tendering procedures will have to comply with severe EHS parameters.

EPIA is committed to regularly consult its member companies with a view to bring together their concerns related to the use of critical materials; EPIA is at the disposal of the European Commission and the High Level Group on Raw Materials for any form of collaboration on the subject.

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EPIA, the European Photovoltaic Industry Association

Created in 1985, the European Photovoltaic Industry Association represents over 95% of the European photovoltaic (PV) industry. With more than 200 Members drawn from across the entire solar electricity sector, EPIA members are present throughout the whole value-chain of the photovoltaic industry: from silicon, cells and module production to systems development.

EPIA aims to represent the European photovoltaic industry vis-à-vis political institutions at European and International levels and advising key decision-makers on the most adequate policies to develop a sustainable photovoltaic market. Thus it contributes to the generation of a sustainable renewable electricity, the mitigation of climate change as well as the reduction of EU energy dependency. www.epia.org