

# EPIA

THE EUROPEAN PHOTOVOLTAIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (EPIA) MISSION AND ACTIVITIES  
 ELENI DESPOTOU, POLICY OFFICER  
 DANIEL FRAILE MONTORO, EPIA SCIENTIFIC OFFICER, POLICY DEPT  
 MARIE LATOUR, COMMUNICATION OFFICER

With over 150 Members drawn from across the entire solar electricity sector, the EPIA represents over 95 % of the European photovoltaic cells production and 80 % on the global scale. EPIA membership is spread along the whole value-chain of the photovoltaic industry from silicon producers, cells and module manufacturers to system providers.

## EPIA 2006-2010 STRATEGY

The successful result of the 2003-2006 strategy lead to propose a new and more ambitious market oriented action plan for the years 2006-2010.

### EPIA's Mission Statement

EPIA exists to deliver a distinct and valuable service driven by the strength of a single European photovoltaic voice.

### Objective

Its objective is that 7 million Europeans may produce clean and sustainable solar electricity by 2010. This represents a global objective of 7 GWp global annual market and a European market of 3,6 GWp in 2010.

### EPIA's CIPO® Strategy

Four main pillars are driving EPIA activities to reach this objective:

- **Competitiveness** – The challenge for the industry is to reach competitiveness. Cost reduction can be only obtained with mass production and technological research.
- **Innovation** – Promoting research activities and stimulating technological transfer from laboratories to the industry with particular focus of financing the industry priorities through the European Framework programs for research and development (FP7).
- **Quality** – Standards, certification and performance of devices are of extreme importance for the PV products. The PV industry can demonstrate that can deliver quality products and having social responsibility too.
- **Promotion** – Improving EPIA's visibility to all relevant stakeholders by maintaining and reinforcing its credibility.

As part of its activities at European and Global level EPIA is member of the following organizations:

- EREC – European Renewable Energy Council
- CEFIC – European Chemical Industry Council
- EUFORES – European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources
- IEA-PVPS – International Energy Agency Photovoltaic Power System
- ARE – Alliance for Rural Electrification

### EPIA Implication in the activities of the IEA-PVPS

In the year 2007 EPIA has participated in two IEA PVPS ExCo meetings:

- Athens (April 2007), represented by Eleni Despotou
- Ebeltoft, Denmark (October 2007), represented by Eleni Despotou



*Fig. 1 - The Second PV MED Conference gathered stakeholders from the PV sector in the Mediterranean region.*

EPIA's main task as member of the IEA-PVPS is to disseminate and promote the results of the different tasks, stimulate and initiate subjects of particular interest for the industry and in general terms bring the voice of the industry amongst the countries members.

### Task 1: Exchange and Dissemination of Information on Photovoltaic Power Systems

EPIA was represented in both IEA-PVPS Task 1 Meetings in 2007. The meetings were held in Zacatecas, Mexico and Tokyo, Japan. During the meetings important developments concerning PV markets, data collection methodologies and data processing were discussed. This discussion proved to be very useful for all products of IEA-PVPS Task 1 (Trends Report, etc). Due to its competence in PV markets, the contribution of EPIA was appreciated. The constant information flow on national PV markets was also very useful for EPIA. During the meeting in Zacatecas, EPIA also presented at a national PV conference. Furthermore EPIA contributed to IEA-PVPS Task 1 Workshop with a presentation during PV-SEC in Milan.

### Task 2: Performance, Reliability and Analysis of Photovoltaic Systems

In the last meeting of Task 2 in Erlenbach, on September 2007, EPIA represented by Daniel Fraile, committed to contribute to the follow-up activities of this task. The integrated project, "Performance," was presented there as it has complementary added value for the Task. EPIA will support the new Task, providing a reliable communication channel between industry and participants of the Task.



Fig. 2 – The European Parliament, Brussels: EPIA represents the European Photovoltaic Industry towards European and International Institutions.

#### Task 8: Very Large Scale Photovoltaic Power Generation Systems

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> PV Mediterranean Conference organized in Athens, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007, EPIA held a workshop called, "Energy from the Desert," dedicated to present the work carried out under the Task 8. Over 150 people participated. Further information can be found here: [www.pvmed.org](http://www.pvmed.org)

#### Task 10: Urban Scale Photovoltaic Applications

EPIA supported Task 10 by offering the opportunity to launch the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lisbon Ideas Challenge at an event organized by EPIA for the European PV Technology Platform on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 in Brussels. This event, entitled "New Rising Era for Photovoltaic Integration in Buildings" took place in the frame of the Sustainable Energy Week. It was jointly organized with the European Construction Technology Platform. It gathered over 120 participants from all over Europe, targeting at architects, developers, installers, PV and the construction industry. The results of the competition were also presented on the occasion of the event, "Boosting Solar Electricity in Portugal," on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007, in Lisbon.

#### Task 12: PV ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (EH&S) ACTIVITIES

This new Task launched successfully in March 2007 in Brussels, and co-coordinated by EPIA and the Brookhaven laboratories has started its work during 2007 with important involvement from the PV industry. Activities in the field of PV component recycling and environmental life cycle assessments LCA are the main activities of this Task which counts representatives of several European countries and USA.

Experts meetings and a workshop have already been held during 2007 in order to develop Guidelines for a Common Approach in Life Cycle Inventory and Life Cycle Assessment for Photovoltaics.

Technical and cost feasibility of collection and recycling are being analyzed for both crystalline and thin-films technologies under the recently founded association PV CYCLE.



Fig. 3 - The EPIA Secretariat team (2007).

#### GENERAL SUPPORT TO THE IEA PVPS

##### Organization of the 29<sup>th</sup> IEA PVPS ExCo Meeting, Athens, Greece, 16-18 April 2007

As part of its general support to the activities of the IEA-PVPS, EPIA hosted the 29<sup>th</sup> IEA PVPS Executive Committee Meeting in Athens from 16 to 18 April 2007 prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> PV MED conference. This meeting gave the opportunity to bring IEA PVPS closer to the Greek authorities and the possibility of Greece to become an official member is still open.

The Second PV MED gathered stakeholders of the PV sector from the Mediterranean and enabled discussion on the latest market trends.

Furthermore, Eleni Despotou chaired the Operating Agents meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2007, at the 30<sup>th</sup> IEA PVPS Ex-Co meeting in Ebeltoft, Denmark.