



## **INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE**

### **Press Release**

**President of European Commission H.E. Ursula von der Leyen and President of ISA Assembly, Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, H.E. Raj Kumar Singh address Industry on Solar Energy Development at the ISA Headquarters.**

**Gurugram, India | April 24:** The President of the European Commission, H.E. Ursula von der Leyen, visited the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Secretariat on 24<sup>th</sup> April at 1230 hours. President of the ISA Assembly, Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, H.E. Raj Kumar Singh, also graced the occasion. The dignitaries addressed Industry representatives and participated in a panel discussion on solar energy development. DG, ISA H.E. Ajay Mathur hosted this visit at ISA Headquarters in Gurugram, India.

Other dignitaries included Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, H.E. Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi; Ambassador of the EU to India and Bhutan, H.E. Ugo Astuto; and Ambassadors of five of the seven EU Member Countries of ISA: Ambassador of France, H.E. Emmanuel Lenain; Ambassador of Denmark, H. E. Freddy Svane; Ambassador of Sweden, H.E. Klas Molin; Ambassador of Germany, H.E. Walter Lindner; and Ambassador of Italy, H.E. Vincenzo de Luca were present during the meeting with representatives from the solar industry.

The European Commission and ISA have had a strong collaboration ever since the establishment of the International Solar Alliance. At COP24 in 2018, the EU and the International Solar Alliance signed a joint declaration to promote solar energy. European Commission Executive-Vice President, H.E. Frans Timmermans, announced a project funded by the EU, worth 1 million Euro during his participation in the ISA Assembly in October 2021, aiming at further strengthening the engagement of the EU, the EU Member States, and EU academic, business, and financial communities with the International Solar Alliance. Currently, 7 EU Member States: France, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Italy, and Greece, are ISA Member Countries. India and France are the President and Co-President of ISA.

At the discussion, DG, ISA said, “The ISA resonates with the EC’s spirit of, ‘no person and no place left behind.’ Our collaboration with the EC and with the EU Member States is built on our synergistic multiplier effect, through making solar accessible, affordable, and available equitably.”

Secretary, Ministry of New Renewable and Energy, Government of India stated, “The global community is reposing increasing faith in International Solar Alliance as a critical instrument in the fight against climate change. The visit of EC President to ISA headquarters is an affirmation of this faith. We are sure the visit will lead to a renewed commitment from countries across the world to strengthen ISA’s efforts.”



The President of the ISA Assembly noted, “India has taken the globally acknowledged initiative of energy transition. It is time now for all countries to come together and contribute to solve each other’s problems.”

President of the European Commission, in her keynote address, said, “India and the European Union are closely aligned in the fight against climate change. Both India and the EU have embarked on their way to net zero emissions. And in both India and Europe, solar energy will play a key role to get there. The European Commission has been a strong supporter of the International Solar Alliance since its creation and I commend the work you do in developing new technologies. Now, we need to step up EU-India cooperation in developing solar energy. We can learn from each other how to finance, promote, and deploy solar energy and how to secure global supply chains and material needed for solar panels. Together, we can increase the economies of scale and scope in tapping the power of the sun. And we can do this through the International Solar Alliance.”

Industry leaders who were present included CEOs of the Clean Energy International Incubation Centre, EDF-India, Greenko, Reliance, Renew Power, Schneider Electric, Tata Power, and Vikram Solar. They shared their thoughts on key issues related to solar energy development.

Dr. Ganesh Das, CEO, Clean Energy International Incubation Centre, highlighted the importance of global markets and global startups in the development of solar power. Mr. Mahesh Kolli, President & Joint MD, Greenko, spoke about Greenko’s plans in the hydrogen and electrolyzer space. Mr. Sumant Sinha, Chairman & CEO, Renew Power said that globally increasing demand and the presence of initial incentives to be competitive were essential in their decision to manufacture solar panels. And, Mr. Anil Chaudhry, Country President & Managing Director at Schneider Electric brought out the centrality of developing country markets, and of developing country manufacturing in meeting global demand.

## **EU-ISA**

With the signature of a [joint declaration](#) for cooperation on 11 December 2018, the European Union is a partner organisation to the ISA. The EU supports ISA with concrete actions, such as the development of the ISA’s collaborative and knowledge platform, the ISA Infopedia and solar academy which was launched at ISA’s General Assembly 2019.

**About The International Solar Alliance:** The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries. The ISA was conceived as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions. It was conceptualised on the side-lines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015. The ISA strives to develop and deploy cost-effective and transformational energy solutions powered by the sun to help member countries develop low-carbon growth trajectories, with particular focus on delivering impact in countries categorized as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Being a global platform, ISA’s partnerships with multilateral development banks (MDBs), development



financial institutions (DFIs), private and public sector organisations, civil society, and other international institutions is key to delivering the change it seeks to see in the world going ahead.

**EU-India relations:** The EU and India have worked together for 6 decades to reduce poverty, prevent disasters, expand trade, fight climate change and biodiversity loss, promote green and digital transition, enhance security around the world and promote joint research in energy, health, agriculture and many other fields of mutual interest.

**EU-India Cooperation in the area of clean energy and climate action:** The European Union and India are closely cooperating on climate action and on ensuring affordable, clean and secure energy, which is a focus area for both sides. The current EU-India climate and energy relations are guided by the [India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership](#) as agreed at the EU-India Summit on 30 March 2016, with the aim of reinforcing cooperation in the area of the clean energy transition and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This partnership was reconfirmed in the joint statement at the [EU-India Summit on 6 October 2017](#). In the [Joint Statement](#) and the [EU-India Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025](#) agreed at the EU-India Summit on 15 July 2020, as well as the [Joint Statement](#) adopted at the EU-India Leaders Meeting on 8 May 2021, also welcomed the strengthening of cooperation under the Clean Energy and Climate Partnership.

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