# Article information:

Solar power: Europe attempts to get out of China’s shadow | Financial Times  
<https://www.ft.com/content/009d8434-9c12-48fd-8c93-d06d0b86779e>

# Article summary:

1. The EU wants to make solar power its single biggest source of energy by 2030, but more than three-quarters of the EU’s solar panel imports in 2021 were from China, raising concerns about over-reliance on one country.

2. The EU has introduced a Net Zero Industry Act designed to boost the manufacture of “strategic” technologies, including solar and other renewable energy infrastructure, on home turf. However, some European solar companies say that more funding needs to be available to bring the industry up to that level.

3. While potential restrictions on supplies from China loom, formidable obstacles stand before Europe’s plans for greater self-sufficiency in solar technology. One of Europe’s main bottlenecks in the supply chain is the production of silicon ingots and wafers used in the manufacture of solar cells.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The Financial Times article titled "Solar power: Europe attempts to get out of China’s shadow" provides an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced by the European Union (EU) in its efforts to become self-sufficient in solar power generation. The article highlights the EU's ambitious target of making solar power its single biggest source of energy by 2030, which would require almost tripling its solar power generation capacity over the next seven years. However, more than three-quarters of the EU's solar panel imports in 2021 were from China, raising concerns about over-reliance on a single country and ethical issues surrounding human rights abuses.

The article presents a balanced view of the challenges faced by the EU, including potential risks associated with relying on a small number of very large producers within China and ethical concerns surrounding forced labor programs in Xinjiang. The article also notes that some EU officials are making the case for an industrial resurgence at home, while others argue that Chinese companies should be welcome to invest in Europe.

However, there are some potential biases and missing points of consideration in the article. For example, while it is noted that European-assembled modules are about a third more expensive than Chinese ones, there is no discussion about why this might be the case or whether this price difference is justified. Additionally, while there is mention of potential obstacles to achieving greater self-sufficiency in solar technology, such as bottlenecks in the supply chain and high energy costs, there is little exploration of possible solutions to these challenges.

Overall, the article provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges faced by the EU in its efforts to become self-sufficient in solar power generation. While there are some potential biases and missing points of consideration, these do not detract significantly from the overall quality and balance of the reporting.

# Topics for further research:

* Reasons for the price difference between European and Chinese solar panels
* Potential solutions to supply chain bottlenecks in solar technology
* Environmental impact of solar panel production in China and Europe
* Comparison of solar power generation costs in China and Europe
* Impact of EU-China trade relations on solar power industry
* Role of government subsidies in promoting solar power generation in Europe and China

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/b1c2b849163797483bbe3d05690eae58>