

Fourth Meeting of the Regional Committee for Europe and the Others Region

21 - 23 June 2023

Brussels, Belgium

Thematic Side Event

Title	"Shining Bright: Advancing Solar Energy Research and Innovation in ISA member countries" 22 June 2023
Context and expected outcomes	<p>In most of the developed countries where solar energy has been significantly mainstreamed, centres of excellence have played a major role by providing expertise to build technical capacity, conducive policies and attract investments. In Germany, Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems; in France - Institut National de l'Énergie Solaire (INES); in Netherlands Delft University of Technology; in Belgium European Renewable Energy Research Centres (EUREC) Association; and in United Kingdom Centre for Renewable Energy Systems Technology (CREST) had an instrumental role in the early stages of growth trajectory of solar energy by providing a strong research and innovation platform within the country and globally.</p> <p>In recent years, solar energy has emerged as a promising solution to the energy challenges faced by SIDSs and LDCs. With abundant sunlight resources, these countries have a tremendous opportunity to leapfrog traditional fossil fuel-based energy systems and embrace sustainable development. However, realizing the full potential of solar energy in SIDSs and LDCs requires a dedicated research and innovation ecosystem.</p> <p>Acting as an interface, ISA's Solar Technology Application Resource Centres (STAR Centres) intends to create an interface between the ISA member countries and the global research and innovation ecosystem including from the EU to leverage technical expertise and resources for accelerated deployment of solar energy. The side event intends to bring together government, scientists and experts from the European region to discuss the characteristics of an intended ISA research and innovation sounding board, to identify opportunities and to aggregate technical resources for joint programs on research and innovation. Thus, driving systemic changes in technical capacity for accelerated solar deployment in ISA member countries.</p> <p>The idea is directly supportive of and consistent with the development priorities of the European Countries and supports low- and middle-income countries in accelerating and scaling up equitable energy transitions thereby creating green jobs.</p> <p>The expected outcomes from the roundtable are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations on how European actors and expertise can strengthen STAR C • Enhanced collaboration and networking among European stakeholders on solar energy research and innovation benefitting SIDSs and LDCs. • Concrete recommendations from a European perspective on creating a research and innovation platform (sounding board) for ISA member countries.
Objectives	The round table aims to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing through research and innovation for making solar energy efficient, affordable, and adaptable to local conditions in ISA member countries.
Partners	Directorate-General Research & Innovation (RTD), France, Solar Power Europe,
Time and venue	14:00 - 15:30 hours CEST Paul Henri Spaak II & III , Sofitel Brussels Europe
Registration Link	https://isolaralliance.org/registration/RegionalCommittee_EO_SER
Medium of participation	In-person

Time (in CEST)	Agenda
14:00 - 15:30 hours	The side event will be for 90 minutes.
14:00 - 14:05 hours	Opening remarks by Dr Ajay Mathur, DG, ISA
14:05 - 14:15 hours	Special Remarks by Ms H�el�ene Chraye, Deputy Director Clean Planet and Head of Unit Clean Energy Transition, DG RTD, European Commission.
14:15- 15:20 hours	<p>Presentation by ISA on STAR C and on the intended sounding board. Followed by discussion on how European expertise can contribute to strengthening STAR C and the sounding board.</p> <p>Moderator : From Solar Power Europe (tbc)</p> <p>Roundtable participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative from ISA member countries (France, UK, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Italy, Greece, Norway, US, Cyprus and Belgium) / Representative from European Research institutes (from those mentioned in the context section) • Ms Maria Getsiou, Senior Expert, DG RTD, European Commission • Representative from AFD <p>Summary and Closing Remarks by ISA</p>
15:20 - 15:30 hours	

