

## Microtechnology experts expect no strain on trade relations with China

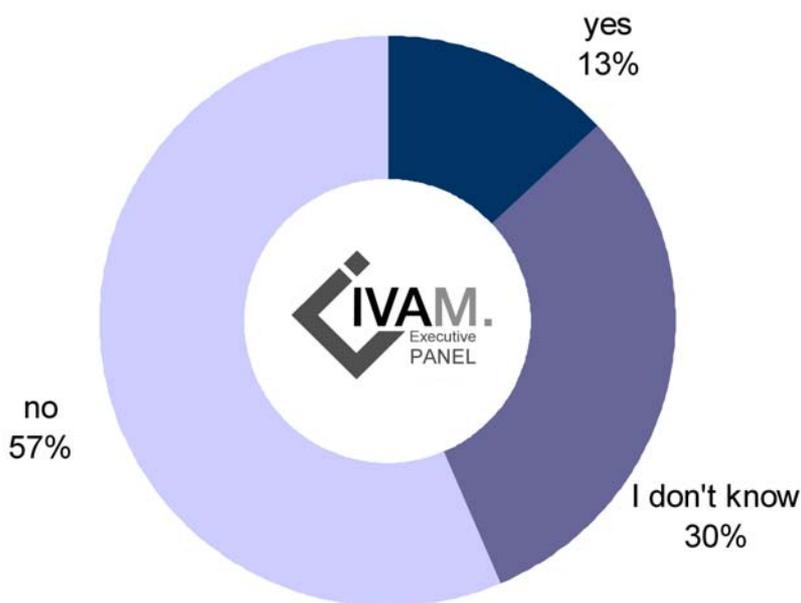
Leading representatives of the European microtechnology industry do not expect that the current conflict will put a strain on the trade relations between Europe and China. In a flash poll, 57 percent of participating experts from industry and science saw no cause for concern. Only 13 percent supposed that the conflict about punitive duties will have a lasting impact on the trade relations.

The experts call the conflict, which was sparked by the punitive duties the EU commission has imposed on cheap solar modules from China, a “political poker” and a momentary overreaction – though quite understandable, as both sides have a legitimate interest to protect their industry. On the other hand, both sides should have an interest, too, not to impose long-term restrictions on the international free trade, which is why they will finally come to an agreement.

According to the microtechnology experts, China is depending too much on imports from Europe to endanger the trade relations. On the long term, however, China will strive to become more independent from Europe or even wall off its domestic market like the United States did.

No matter what the experts think of the outcome of the conflict, they almost agree that punitive duties are not an adequate means to control trade relations. The EU commission should rather appeal to the Chinese government to cut the massive subsidies they put into the solar industry.

Will the dispute about punitive duties have a lasting impact on the trade relations between Europe and China?



IVAM Microtechnology Network, June 2013

### **IVAM Executive Panel**

*The IVAM Executive Panel is the trend indicator for the microtechnology industry. The IVAM Microtechnology Network conducts brief periodic surveys among selected opinion leaders, executives in mostly small and medium-sized enterprises, and leading scientists. In June 2013, 23 experts from Germany and Switzerland took part in the survey on the trade conflict with China.*