

## BACKGROUND

- The redundancies arose from the closure of the two sites in Germany of Aleo Solar -- the production site in Prenzlau (533 redundancies) and the administrative centre in Oldenburg (104 redundancies).
- Aleo Solar is one of many European solar enterprises that have shut down production wholly or partially in response to competition from the Far East, particularly China. Between 2005 and 2011, the revenue share of China in the world market increased from $11 \%$ to $45 \%$, while that of Germany fell from $64 \%$ to $21 \%$. The only other EU Member State with a significant production is Spain, at $1 \%$.
- China has huge overcapacities in solar modules, which neither its own consumers nor the world market can absorb. This has led to a worldwide collapse in prices, aggravated by a general decline in demand. More than $90 \%$ of Chinese production is exported, of which $80 \%$ into the EU. In 2011, EU prices dropped by 40 \% compared with 2010, to a level below the production costs of Aleo Solar.
- The measures to be co-funded by the EGF are targeted at the redundant workers in the Prenzlau area, where alternative employment prospects are scarce and workers need to be upskilled and helped to move elsewhere to find new jobs.

