



## Renewable energy players join forces to audit their supply chains.

Several companies in the renewable energy sector have come together around the international ICS (Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability) standard to harmonize the social and environmental assessment protocols for their value chains, particularly the supply of photovoltaic modules. The aim of this collective approach is to make the checks more acceptable to suppliers by avoiding duplication, and to assess potential or actual risks in factories using a recognized international audit standard.

### An initiative launched in 2024

The project was launched in 2024 with five French renewable energy companies, *Corsica Sole*, *CVE*, *GreenYellow*, *Mirova*, and *Tenergie*, in collaboration with the ICS, an initiative that brings together nearly 100 French and international retail brands.

Each year, nearly 5,000 ICS social and environmental audits are conducted in more than 80 countries, facilitating the coordination of CSR requirements within the same sector of activity, as well as between different sectors.

Drawing on the expertise of the ICS and the strength of the collective, this working group aims to:

- Harmonize and simplify the conduct of social and environmental audits of their suppliers (particularly solar panel suppliers)
- Pool and analyze the results obtained

Although they are not subject to French regulations on the Duty of Care (Law of March 27, 2017), companies in the renewable energy sector participating in this working group are strengthening their policies for managing risks of human rights, labor, and environmental violations.

### Encouraging initial results

The actions carried out in 2024 served to reinforce the key principles of the Duty of Care and to train representatives in the ICS tools and methodology:

- Cascading mapping of the supply chain
- Identification of common production sites
- pooling of data collection
- launch of audits, analysis of reports - initiation of CAPs (Corrective Action Plans)

The first audits were conducted in early 2025 in the factories of the main manufacturers of photovoltaic modules. The collective approach promoted acceptance of the controls, identification of risks, and initiation of corrective actions.

### A working group that is growing stronger



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Encouraged by these initial results, new members joined the group in September 2025: Arkolia, Girasole Energies, Technique Solaire, and Unit E, as the group now wishes to open up to European players.

The ReSpirE Energies association, launched in early October with the aim of creating a forum for discussion between renewable energy players to support the sector's development of expertise in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility, has also chosen to participate in this initiative. In 2026, this working group will continue the ICS social audits on other solar panel production plants to assess and ensure Tier 1\* compliance.

Audits will also be repeated at factories that have implemented corrective measures in order to measure their effectiveness, while this new year will also see the launch and evaluation of more upstream controls in the value chain.

## About:

ICS: Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability is a French initiative founded in 1998 by the Federation of Trade and Distribution (FCD), open to all companies, regardless of size or sector of activity. It now includes more than 50 French and international groups, representing around 100 brands.

ICS ensures the conditions for the implementation of harmonized protocols enabling the sharing of due diligence results between brands, in order to reduce costs and promote acceptance by suppliers. ICS's objective is thus to support its members' compliance with the requirements of the Duty of Care and to contribute to the sustainability of production conditions around the world.

ReSpirE Energies: ReSpirE Energies is an association whose objective is to create a forum for exchange between different communities in the renewable energy sector, such as industry players, renewable energy developers and producers, and ESG analysts from investment funds and banks. Through cooperation and exchange, the association aims to increase the sector's expertise on issues of Corporate Social Responsibility.

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