



European  
Commission

## Juncker Commission strengthens integration of Iberian Peninsula in the Energy Union

Since the beginning of the mandate, the integration of the Iberian Peninsula into the internal energy market, based on the principle of European solidarity, has been a priority of the Juncker Commission. By supporting the construction of the necessary infrastructure, the EU is ending the energy isolation of this part of Europe, whilst improving security of supply, giving consumers more choice, and spurring economic growth and jobs. These interconnections are also essential for renewable energy sources to thrive and make Europe world number one in renewable energy. The **Lisbon Declaration**, to be signed on 27 July 2018, reaffirms these values and objectives, underlining the EU's willingness to complete the Energy Union and fulfil its commitments under the Paris agreement.

### THE MADRID DECLARATION TO STEP-UP EFFORTS AND DEVELOP ENERGY INTERCONNECTIONS IN SOUTH-WEST EUROPE



The Madrid Declaration was signed on **4 March 2015** by the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker and the President of France, the Prime Minister of Spain, the Prime Minister of Portugal in presence of President of the European Investment Bank.

A High Level Group for Interconnections in South-West Europe was established to effectively implement the Madrid Declaration.

### INFRASTRUCTURE: BISCAY BAY POWER LINE TO DOUBLE ELECTRICITY CAPACITY



The **280-kilometres** electricity interconnection will double by **2025** the exchange capacity between France and Spain. Such a decisive milestone for electricity integration will allow for a greater incorporation of renewable energies into the European network and add supply solidity and reliability. A grant agreement for the power line crossing the **Bay of Biscay** totalling €578 million, will also be signed at the occasion of the summit.

In terms of the Eastern gas axis, the Val de Saône pipeline unifying the French gas market and strengthening the Spanish and Portuguese access to the European Market will be completed by **end 2018**. As for the South Transit Eastern Pyrenees gas pipeline project, which aims to increase the bidirectional capacity between France and Spain, it is currently under approval by national regulators.

### EXPLOITING THE RICH RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL OF THE IBERIAN PENINSULA



Enhanced regional cooperation can maximize the benefits of South Western Europe's great renewable energy potential. Portugal and Spain are some of the EU Member States leading in the area of renewables. In Portugal, since 2014, more than half of electricity consumption is supplied by renewable sources, and in 2018, a new record was broken with renewable power production surpassing total electricity consumption during one entire month. This is possible thanks to the common market management and the solid infrastructure that exists between Portugal and Spain. But more can be achieved through enhanced interconnections with the rest of Europe, making this part of the continent the engine for Europe's worldwide leadership in renewables.

## TIMELINE:

- 
- March 2002** - The European Council, meeting in Barcelona, sets a target of 10% of electricity interconnections for Member States.
- October 2014** - The European Council reaffirms the 10% electricity interconnections target and asks the Commission to report regularly with the objective of arriving at a 15% target, as proposed by the Commission.
- February 2015** - Commission presents the Energy Union Strategy emphasising enhanced regional cooperation within a common EU framework. The interconnection capacity between France and Spain doubles thanks to the completion of the Santa-Baixas-Llogaia power line.
- March 2015** - President Juncker, together with the President of France and the Prime Ministers of Spain and Portugal sign the Madrid Declaration and agree on priority projects to fully integrate the Iberian Peninsula into the EU energy market.
- June 2015** - The Commission, together with France, Spain and Portugal sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing a High Level Group for Interconnections in South West Europe with the goal of ensuring the timely implementation of the Madrid Declaration.
- November 2015** - The Commission adopts second list of Project of Common Interests eligible for funding under the Connecting Europe Facility. All projects identified in the Madrid Declaration receive the status of Projects of Common Interest.
- April 2016** - EU grants financial support for the development of the Eastern gas Axis through Val de Saone and South Transit Eastern Pyrenees pipelines.
- June 2017** - The completion of the phase-shifter transformer in Arkale, Spain, enables the full utilisation of the Santa-Llogaia-Baixas interconnection between Spain and France.
- November 2017** - The Commission adopts third list of Project of Common Interest eligible for funding under the Connecting Europe Facility - including project in the South-West Europe
- November 2017** - Commission presents Communication on strengthening Europe's energy networks - well interconnected and integrated trans-European grids are indispensable for making the energy transition a success. A key political priority remains the full integration of the Iberian Peninsula into the internal energy market
- July 2018** - The President of France and the Prime ministers of Spain and Portugal, together with Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete, acting on behalf of President Juncker, sign the Lisbon Declaration which aims to strengthen the regional cooperation. They also witness the signature of the biggest EU financial assistance granted to the Biscay Bay power line which will double the interconnection capacity between France and Spain and bring a decisive contribution to a better integration of the Iberian peninsula into the EU electricity market.