

Joint press release by France, Portugal and Spain

Meeting of the President of the French Republic, the Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic and the President of the Government of Spain in Brussels on 20 October 2022.

President of France, Emmanuel Macron, Spain's President of the Government, Pedro Sánchez, and Portugal's Prime Minister António Costa met today in Brussels.

Their talk focused on the current security situation in Europe and the importance of accelerating the construction of energy interconnectors within the EU, in particular those connecting Portugal and Spain with France and the rest of Europe.

They agreed that accelerating the development of energy interconnections will contribute to completing the EU's energy market and strengthen the energy transition in the framework of the Green Deal, namely by facilitating access to alternative sources and routes of energy for Europe.

In this context, the three Leaders have agreed on four points concerning energy interconnections between Portugal, Spain and France.

1. They decided to abandon the Midcat project and instead create, as a matter of priority, a Green Energy Corridor connecting Portugal, Spain and France with the EU's energy network.
2. In this regard, they agreed:
 - a. to conclude the future-proof renewable gas interconnections between Portugal and Spain, namely connecting Celourico da Beira and Zamora (CelZa);
 - b. to develop a maritime pipeline connecting Barcelona with Marseille (BarMar) as the most direct and efficient option to connect the Iberian Peninsula to Central Europe;
 - c. these hydrogen infrastructures must be technically adapted to transport other renewable gases, as well as a limited proportion of natural gas as a temporary and transitional source of energy.
3. Regarding electricity, they expressed their full support for accelerating efforts to finalize the new electricity connection through the Bay of Biscay. They agreed to identify, assess and implement new electricity interconnection projects connecting France and Spain, in order to achieve an electrically-connected Europe
4. The three Leaders agreed to meet again in Alicante on December 9, to decide on the calendar, sources of financing and cost issues related to the implementation of the BarMar component of the Green Energy Corridor between Portugal, Spain and France. Their respective Ministers of Energy will immediately begin the preparatory work on these issues, as well as on the reinforcement of electricity interconnections between Spain and France; in this they will work closely with the European Commission.

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