MINISTERIO
PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA
Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO

REPÚBLICA
PORTUGUESA
AMBIENTE E ENERGIA

Mr. Marc Ferracci
Minister for Industry and Energy
Republic of France

Dear Minister,

We are writing to you to reiterate the **strategic importance and urgency of accelerating the completion of electricity interconnections with the Iberian Peninsula**. This is not a new concern, but a shared strategic priority for both our countries and the European Union, consistently present in our common agenda.

The unprecedented event of 28 April 2025, which impacted the entire Iberian Peninsula, has brought renewed attention to the need to strengthen interconnection infrastructure. This incident clearly illustrated the critical role of cross-border connectivity in safeguarding the stability of the European electricity system under stress. **This event reinforces — with renewed urgency — the imperative to act decisively at both technical and political levels.**

We therefore **reaffirm that accelerating the completion of electricity interconnections with the Iberian Peninsula must be placed among the highest priorities** — not only for Spain and Portugal, but for the European Union as a whole.

Despite progress in recent years, the **Iberian Peninsula remains effectively an energy island**. Interconnection levels remain significantly below EU targets (currently under 3%, far from the 10% and 15% targets set for 2020 and 2030), representing a systemic vulnerability within the broader European energy system.

The benefits of adequate cross-border interconnections are well established in emergency contexts — by enhancing system robustness, as would have been vital on 28 April, or enabling solidarity through energy exchange between systems with complementary profiles, as was demonstrated during the reduced availability of the French nuclear fleet in 2022.

Beyond crises, interconnection is also fundamental to advancing European goals of **decarbonisation**, **price convergence**, **competitiveness**, **supply security** and **system resilience**. These are essential for achieving a **genuine Energy Union** and a functioning **internal market**, ensuring cohesion among Member States.

The Action Plan for Affordable Energy notably highlights the need to "**increase the level of interconnection between the Iberian Peninsula and the rest of Europe**" as a flagship measure.

It is also worth recalling that Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 on the Governance of the Energy Union raises the **EU's electricity interconnection target from 10% to 15%.**

MINISTERIO
PARA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA
Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO

REPÚBLICA PORTUGUESA
AMBIENTE E ENERGIA

As you are aware, the **two planned cross-Pyrenean interconnections were excluded from the 2025–2035 French Network Development Plan:** Aragón–Atlantic Pyrenees and Navarra–Les Landes. These projects **have long held the status of Projects of Common Interest (PCI)** under EU designation, and are now, more than ever, an urgent matter.

Let us also recall that following the **Faro Summit, in October 2024**, our Prime Ministers sent a letter to President Macron expressing concerns on this matter. France's reply referenced ongoing feasibility studies and noted the **sensitivity of local communities on both sides of the Pyrenees**. The Spanish electricity grid will be ready, with planned reinforcements aligned with our 2030 outlook.

We therefore urge the establishment of **concrete timelines and binding commitments** regarding these strategic interconnection corridors. Accelerating their implementation must remain a **top priority**, not only for Spain and Portugal, but for France and the **European Union as a whole**.

We **kindly propose convening a meeting** to discuss this matter in greater depth. This would be in addition to the potential ministerial meeting suggested for the second half of this year under the South-West Europe High-Level Group. That group will meet at Director-General-level on 6 June in Brussels, with the ministerial session tentatively included in the agenda — a point of great interest for both Spain and Portugal.

In this context, **Spain and Portugal propose holding a ministerial meeting in 2025**, bringing together our three countries and the Commission to define a joint roadmap with milestones and concrete steps towards meeting the **European targets**.

Yours sincerely,

Sara Aagesen Muñoz

Third Vice-President of the Government of Spain

Minister for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge

Maria da Graça Carvalho

Minister for Environment and Energy of the Portuguese Republic