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[from left to right: Mustafa Abdel-Wadood, CEO, Abraaj Capital Limited, Philippe de Fontaine Vive Curtaz, Vice President, EIB and H.E. Eng. Yarub Qudah, CEO of JEDCO](#)

[Greater Manchester Metrolink extension](#)

[Mr Olaf Scholz, Mayor of Hamburg](#)

[Fritz Vahrenholt, Chief Executive Officer, RWE Innogy GmbH, Germany, Karina Veum, Senior Researcher, Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands, Alistair Buchanan, Group Chief Executive, OFGEM, UK regulator of gas and electricity markets and Frauke Thies, EU Energy Policy Coordinator, Greenpeace](#)

[Mr Matthias Kollatz-Ahnen, Vice-President of the EIB](#)

[from left to right: Jörg Vogt, CFO, Trianel, Germany \(Project: Borkum West II Offshore Wind Park\), Pierre Lestienne, CFO, C-Power, Belgium \(Project: C-Power near Ostend\) and Georg Friedrichs, Vice-President, Head of Offshore Wind Projects, Vattenfall, Germany \(Project: Thanet Offshore Wind Farm\)](#)

[from left to right: Mr Kevin Smith, Director Wind Energy, Det Norske Veritas, Norway, Mr Frank V. Nielsen; Chief Technology Officer, LM Wind Power, Denmark and Mr Konstantin Staschus, Secretary General, European Network of Transmission System Operations for Electricity \(ENTSO-E\)](#)

[from left to right: Mr Rober Harrabin, Environmental Analyst, BBC and Mr Hans-Jörg Bullinger, President, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft of](#)

Germany

Mr Paulo Roberto de Oliveira Araujo, Head of Department, BNDES International Division, Mr F. de Paula Coelho, Director of the ALA Department of the EIB and Mr Christophe Nègre, Deputy Head of Division, Legal Department of the EIB

From left to right: Mr. de Paula Coelho, Director of the Asia Latin America Department and Mr Paulo Roberto de Oliveira Araujo, Head of Department, BNDES International Division

From left to right: Mr. de Paula Coelho, Director of the Asia Latin America Department of the EIB and Mr Paulo Roberto de Oliveira Araujo, Head of Department, BNDES International Division

Mr Paulo Roberto de Oliveira Araujo, Head of Department, BNDES International Division

Group picture of the signature Brazil Climate Change Mitigation

Picture of all the participants at the signature EFL loan for SMEs and Mid-Caps III

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Mr ANDRZEJ KRZEMINSKI President of the Management Board- EFL and Mrs FÜRSTENBERG-LUCIUS, Director EIB

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Mr ANDRZEJ KRZEMINSKI President of the Management Board- EFL and Mr Mariusz KOLWAS, Vice-President of the Management Board – EFL

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Mr Andrzej KRZEMINSKI President of the Management Board- EFL Mrs Anita FÜRSTENBERG-LUCIUS, Director EIB Mr Anton ROP, Vice-President of the EIB

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Mr Andrzej KRZEMINSKI President of the Management Board- EFL Mrs Anita FÜRSTENBERG-LUCIUS, Director EIB,

Mr Anton ROP, Vice-President of the EIB

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Mr Andrzej KRZEMINSKI President of the Management Board- EFL Mrs Anita FÜRSTENBERG-LUCIUS, Director EIB Mr Anton ROP, Vice-President of the EIB

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Mr Zygmunt TRYBKA, Director of the Financing Department EFL and Mr Piotr KOZIOL, Director of the Legal Department EFL

Group picture of the signature EFL Loan for SMEs and Mid-Caps III

from left to right:Mrs Flavia Palanza, Associate Director for Central and Eastern Africa, EIB, Mr. Jack Nkusi Kayonga, Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Development Bank and Mr Patrick Walsh, Director responsible for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific operations.

from left to right: Mr. Jack Nkusi KAYONGA, Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Development Bank and Mr Patrick Walsh, Director of the Central and Eastern Africa, Pacific Department of the EIB

Mr. Jack Nkusi KAYONGA, Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Development Bank

from left to right:Mrs Flavia Palanza, Associate Director for Central and Eastern Africa, EIB, Mr. Jack Nkusi Kayonga, Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Development Bank and Mr Patrick Walsh, Director responsible for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific operations.

from left to right:Mrs Flavia Palanza, Associate Director for Central and Eastern Africa, EIB, Mr. Jack Nkusi Kayonga, Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Development Bank and Mr Patrick Walsh, Director responsible for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific operations.

J.A.Mannai, Président du Fonds Monétaire Arabe; P.Maystadt, Président de la BEI; A.M.Ali Al-Madani, Président de la Banque Islamique de Développement; F.Baroin, Ministre de l'Economie, des Finances et de l'Industrie; D.Kaberuka, Président de la Banque Africaine de Développement; C.Lagarde, directrice générale du FMI

Photo de la signature

Photo de groupe de la signature

from left to right: Founders and biggest investors:

From left to right: all investors+Fund Manager:

Mr Anton Rop, Vice President of the European Investment Bank

de gauche à droite: M. Othman Ben Arfa, PDG de la STEG, M. Philippe de Fontaine Vive, Vice-président de la BEI et M. Mohamed Nouri Jouini, Ministre du Développement et de la Coopération Internationale

de gauche à droite: M. Othman Ben Arfa, PDG de la STEG et M. Philippe de Fontaine Vive, Vice-président de la BEI

de gauche à droite: M. Othman Ben Arfa, PDG de la Société Tunisienne de l'Electricité et du Gaz , M. Philippe de Fontaine Vive, Vice-président de la BEI et M. Mohamed Nouri Jouini, Ministre du Développement et de la Coopération Internationale

De gauche à droite:

Closing Ceremony Rural Impulse Fund II SA, SICAV-SIF; Luxembourg
1st June 2010

Closing

de gauche à droite: M.Carlos Da Silva Costa ,Vice Président de la BEI et M. Valls i Riera, Président de l'Autoridad Portuaria de Barcelona.

de gauche à droite: Carlos da Silva Costa, vice-président de la BEI et Ignacio Galán, Président d'Iberdrola

M. Philippe Maystadt, Président de la BEI, S.E.M. Premier Ministre de la Serbie et M. Dario Scannapieco, Vice-Président de la BEI à la signature de contrats

M. Philippe Maystadt, Président de la BEI et S.E.M. Mirko CVETKOVIC, Premier Ministre de la République de Serbie à la signature du livre d'or

Mr. I Dalianis, Financial Manager of Symetal ,Mr. K Kontos, General Manager of Symetal , Mr P Sakellaris Vice President of the EIB, Mr. D Kyriakopoulos, Executive Vice President of Elval and Mr. L Varouchas, General Manager of Elval

Mr P.Sakellaris, Vice President of the EIB and Mr D. Kyriakopoulos, Executive Vice President of Elval

Mr P. Sakellaris, Vice President of the EIB and Mr D.Kyriakopoulos, Executive Vice President of Elval

Press conference in Athens today, Mr Plutarchos Sakellaris, Vice President of the EIB

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[The Marseille Center for Mediterranean Integration is launched today](#)

[Le Centre de Marseille pour l'Intégration en Méditerranée est inauguré aujourd'hui](#)

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[Enjoy your new digital rights across Europe during summer holidays](#)

This summer, European citizens will enjoy more digital rights than ever before. Following the end of roaming charges across the European Union last year, holidaymakers can now travel with their online TV, film, sports, music or e-book subscriptions at no extra cost. In addition, everyone across Europe can enjoy world-class data protection rules that ensure all Europeans have better control over their personal data.

Andrus **Ansip**, Vice-President for the Digital Single Market said: "*Europeans*

are already starting to feel the benefits of the Digital Single Market. This summer you will be able to bring your favourite TV programmes and sports matches with you wherever you travel in the EU. By the end of this year, you will also be able to buy festival tickets or rent cars online from all over the EU without being geo-blocked or re-routed.”

Věra **Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality added: “The digital world offers tremendous opportunities, but also challenges; for example, our personal data is a useful asset for many companies. With the modern data protection rules we have put in place, Europeans have gained control over their data whenever they shop, book their holidays online or just surf the internet.”

Mariya **Gabriel**, Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society said: “We are improving the daily life of our citizens, be it end of roaming charges or safer online environment. By completing all our digital initiatives we will bring even more positive change to consumers and businesses alike.”

Digital rights already in daily use

- Since June 2017, people have been able use their **mobile phones while travelling** in the EU just like they would at home, without paying extra charges. Since the [EU abolished roaming charges](#), more than five times the amount of data has been consumed and almost two and a half times more phone calls have been made in the EU and the European Economic Area.
- Since April 2018, consumers can **access online content services** they have subscribed to in their home country also when travelling across the EU, including among other films, series and sports broadcasts (see examples in [factsheet](#)).
- Under the new **data protection rules** which have been in place across the EU since 25 May 2018, Europeans can safely transfer personal data between service providers such as the cloud or email; everyone now has the right to know if their data has been leaked or hacked, or how their personal data is being collected. Furthermore, with the ‘right to be forgotten’, personal data has to be deleted upon request, if there are no legitimate reasons for a company to keep it.
- Finally, with the **net neutrality rules** applying since spring 2016, every European has access to open internet, guaranteeing their freedom without discrimination when choosing content, applications, services and information of their choice.

Coming soon

With some digital rights already in place, there is more to come in the upcoming months. From September, Europeans will have increasingly the right to use their national electronic identification (eID) across the whole EU to access public services.

As of December, everyone will benefit from the **free flow of non-personal data**, as they will have access to better and more competitive data storage and processing services in the EU, thus complementing the free movement of

people, goods, services and capital. Entrepreneurs meanwhile will have the right to decide where in the EU they store and process all types of data.

As of 3 December, Europeans will be able to **shop online without unjustified discrimination** wherever they are in the EU. They will not have to worry about a website blocking or re-routing them just because they – or their credit card – come from a different country.

As of next year, citizens will be able to compare parcel delivery costs more easily and benefit from more **affordable prices for [cross-border parcel delivery](#)**.

Agreed rules on **value added tax for e-commerce** will allow entrepreneurs to take care of their cross-border VAT needs in one online portal and in their own language.

With the recently agreed [European Electronic Communications Code](#), Europeans will have the right to switch internet services and telecoms providers in a simpler way. They will also have the right to receive public alerts on mobile phones in case of an emergency. The new rules will also guarantee a better and more affordable connectivity across the EU.

With the [updated rules for audiovisual media](#), Europeans will have the right to a safe online environment that protects them from incitement to violence, hatred, terrorism, child pornography, racism and xenophobia.

Background

The [Digital Single Market strategy](#) was proposed by the Commission in May 2015 to make the EU's single market fit for the digital age – tearing down regulatory walls and moving from 28 national markets to a single one. This has the potential to contribute €415 billion per year to our economy and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

Three years later, the strategy is well on its way: 17 legislative proposals have been agreed on, while 12 proposals are still on the table. There is a strong need to complete our regulatory framework for creating the Digital Single Market. Thanks to this the value of Europe's data economy has the potential to top €700 billion by 2020, representing 4% of the EU's economy.

For More Information

[Digital Single Market](#)

[Factsheet: A Digital Single Market for the benefit of all Europeans](#)

[Factsheet: Creating a Digital Single Market – European Commission actions since 2015](#)

[Factsheet: EU Budget for the Future – Digital Transformation 2021-2027](#)

[Data Protection – benefits for citizens](#)

[Daily News 27 / 07 / 2018](#)

Juncker Plan supports €40 million loan to finance research of cancer treatment

The Juncker Plan's European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) has provided its backing to a European Investment Bank (EIB) loan worth €40 million to biotechnology company [Nanobiotix](#). The loan will help finance research and development by Nanobiotix of innovative cancer treatments. Commenting on the agreement, Commissioner Vytenis **Andriukaitis** said: *"Cancer is the second-highest cause of death in the EU and with Europe's ageing population, fighting cancer will undoubtedly remain a priority in the years to come. We need to have innovative and dedicated research to always be in search of new treatments. Nanoparticle based cancer treatment research funding is one example of how serious we are in fighting cancer, with the significant support from the EIB to finance research and innovation."* These latest loan agreements come following the [confirmation that the Juncker Plan's European Fund for Strategic Investments \(EFSI\) has mobilised €335 billion](#) in additional investment across the EU since July 2015, exceeding the initial target of mobilising €315 billion of investment. Factsheets on the results of the Juncker Plan are available [here](#). A press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Christian Spahr – Tel.: +32 229 50055; Enda McNamara – Tel.: +32 229 64976)

Digital Single Market: Enjoy your new digital rights across Europe during summer holiday

This summer, the [Digital Single Market](#) brings Europeans more digital rights than ever before, strengthening citizens' online trust and security. Since the [abolition of roaming charges](#) in June 2017, people already have been able use their mobile phones while travelling in the EU without paying extra charges. Under the new data protection rules, which have been in place across the EU since 25 May 2018, Europeans have more control over their personal data. Additionally, since April 2018, consumers can [access online content services](#) they have subscribed to in their home country also when travelling across the EU. To mark the digital achievements, Vice-President for the Digital Single Market Andrus **Ansip** said: *"Europeans are already starting to feel the benefits of the Digital Single Market. This summer you will be able to bring your favourite TV programmes and sports matches with you wherever you travel in the EU. By the end of this year, you will also be able to buy festival tickets or rent cars online from all over the EU without being geo-blocked or re-routed."* In the upcoming months, more digital rights will

become a reality. From September onwards, Europeans will have increasingly the right to use their national electronic identification (eID) across the whole EU to access public services; and from December, everyone will benefit from the [free flow of non-personal data](#) and will be able to shop online without unjustified discrimination wherever they are in the EU. All existing and upcoming digital rights are in the [press release](#). (For more information: Nathalie Vandystadt – Tel.: +32 229 67083; Inga Höglund – Tel.: +32 229 50698)

From mini-organs to ultrafast filming: early career researchers get funding from the European Research Council

What can we eat to prevent dementia? Are our eyes really the windows to our personalities? How do birds help forests flourish? 403 talented early career researchers have been awarded [European Research Council](#) grants to answer such questions. Scientists will benefit in total from €603 million to create their own research teams and conduct pioneering projects. Carlos **Moedas**, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: “*In addition to supporting early stage European researchers, the ERC Starting Grants also help enrich the European research field by attracting and retaining foreign scientists in Europe. More than one in ten grantees comes from outside the EU or its associated countries. Europe is open to the world!*” The grants are part of the ‘excellent science’ pillar of the EU’s current Research and Innovation programme, Horizon 2020. More information [here](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maud Noyon – Tel.: +32 229 80379)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of Augusta refinery and ancillary assets by Sonatrach

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of a refinery located in Augusta (Italy) and a number of ancillary assets by Sonatrach of Algeria. The Augusta refinery and the ancillary assets are all currently owned and controlled by Esso Italiana S.r.l., an affiliate of the ExxonMobil Corporation of the US. Sonatrach is an Algerian government-owned company operating in the oil and gas sector. The Commission concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns given the companies’ moderate combined positions in the markets where their activities overlap and their limited individual market positions where their activities are vertically linked. The transaction was examined under the simplified merger review procedure. More information is available on the Commission’s [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.8959](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Giulia Astuti – +32 229 55344)

Concentrations: la Commission autorise l’acquisition de ROLAND Rechtsschutzversicherungs par le groupe AXA

La Commission européenne a approuvé, en vertu du règlement européen sur les concentrations, l’acquisition de ROLAND Rechtsschutzversicherungs AG, basé en

Allemagne, par le groupe AXA, basé en France. ROLAND est actif dans la fourniture d'assurances de protection juridique, d'assurances contre les accidents et les pannes, ainsi que dans le service d'assistance en Allemagne. AXA est actif dans l'assurance et la gestion d'actifs dans le monde entier. La Commission a conclu que l'opération envisagée ne soulèverait pas de problème de concurrence compte tenu de son impact très limité sur la structure du marché. De plus amples informations sont disponibles sur le site internet [concurrence de la Commission dans le registre public des affaires](#) sous le numéro [M.8905](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Giulia Astuti – +32 229 55344)

State aid: Commission approves €500 million in German public funding to promote energy efficiency in rail transport

The European Commission has approved under EU State aid rules a German scheme to support railway companies that invest in energy efficiency technologies. Under the scheme, companies providing electrically powered rail transport services may be compensated for up to 50% of expenses incurred from energy efficiency measures, such as acquisition of modern energy-saving rolling stock including hybrid locomotives or automated solutions. To benefit from this public support, rail transport companies need to demonstrate a year on year improvement of 1.75% (2% from 2020) in their energy efficiency. The Commission found that the scheme is beneficial for the environment and for mobility because it supports and promotes rail transport, which is less polluting than road transport. The Commission also found that the measure is proportionate and necessary to achieve its objective to support the modal shift from road to rail. As a result, the Commission has concluded that the measure complies with EU State aid rules, in particular the [2008 Commission Guidelines on State aid for railway undertakings](#). Commissioner Margrethe **Vestager** in charge of competition policy, said: *“Electrically powered rail transport is one of the most environmentally friendly transport options. By promoting a shift from road to rail, the German scheme will contribute to meeting the EU’s environmental and transport objectives, without distorting competition”*. A full press release is available in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Giulia Astuti – +32 229 55344)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

European solidarity on Energy: Better integration of the Iberian Peninsula into the EU energy market

In the presence of the European Commission, the Prime Minister of Portugal António Costa, the President of France Emmanuel Macron, and the President of the government of Spain Pedro Sanchez will meet in Lisbon this afternoon to strengthen their regional cooperation in the framework of the Energy Union. Leaders will take stock of the important progress achieved in better integrating the Iberian Peninsula into the internal energy market and will formally agree on ways to strengthen the regional cooperation between Spain, France and Portugal. Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker** said: *“Today’s event shows the value of European solidarity and regional unity. By agreeing on steps forward to complete the energy interconnections between France,*

Portugal and Spain and ways to enhance our regional cooperation, we are strengthening the security of energy supply across Europe, and delivering on our promise to make Europe number one on clean energy and renewables. The world looks to us for leadership in these turbulent times. Let's show just how much unity can achieve." Climate Action and Energy Commissioner Miguel **Arias Cañete** added: *"This summit will showcase the commitment of the Juncker Commission to get the hardware of the Energy Union built on the ground and make a difference. A solid and resilient energy infrastructure is also essential to encourage regional action in new areas, such as renewables and energy efficiency. This will help us deliver on our Paris Agreement commitments. I am particularly pleased by the signing of a grant agreement for the power line crossing the Bay of Biscay, the largest investment in energy infrastructure under Connecting Europe Facility ever awarded. It is good for Spain and Portugal, good for France, and good for Europe".* Since the Juncker Commission took office, the integration of the Iberian Peninsula into the internal energy market has been a priority. By supporting the construction of the necessary infrastructure, the EU's goal is to end the energy isolation of this part of Europe, whilst improving energy security, 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. Read full [IP/18/4621](#) and [MEMO/18/4622](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Nicole Bockstaller – Tel.: +32 229 52589)

[Upcoming events](#) of the European Commission (ex-Top News)

[European solidarity on Energy: Better integration of the Iberian Peninsula into the EU energy market](#)

Leaders will take stock of the important progress achieved in better integrating the Iberian Peninsula into the internal energy market and will formally agree on ways to strengthen the regional cooperation between Spain, France and Portugal.

European Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker** said: *"Today's event shows the value of European solidarity and regional unity. By agreeing on steps forward to complete the energy interconnections between France, Portugal and Spain and ways to enhance our regional cooperation, we are strengthening the security of energy supply across Europe, and delivering on our promise to make Europe number one on clean energy and renewables. The world looks to us for leadership in these turbulent times. Let's show just how much unity can achieve."*

Commissioner Miguel Arias **Cañete** said: *“This summit will showcase the commitment of the Juncker Commission to get the hardware of the Energy Union built on the ground and make a difference. A solid and resilient energy infrastructure is also essential to encourage regional action in new areas, such as renewables and energy efficiency. This will help us deliver on our Paris Agreement commitments. I am particularly pleased by the signing of a grant agreement for the power line crossing the Bay of Biscay, the largest investment in energy infrastructure under Connecting Europe Facility ever awarded. It is good for Spain and Portugal, good for France, and good for Europe”.*

Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete will be present on behalf of the Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. The Vice-President of the European Investment Bank Emma Navarro will also attend the meeting.

Since the Juncker Commission took office, the integration of the Iberian Peninsula into the internal energy market has been a priority. By supporting the construction of the necessary infrastructure, the EU’s goal is to end the energy isolation of this part of Europe, whilst improving energy security, 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.

Underlining the EU’s willingness to complete the Energy Union and fulfil its commitments under the Paris agreement, the leaders will sign the **Lisbon Declaration** that clearly sets out the way forward. It builds on the [Madrid Declaration](#) from March 2015 which launched the integration process and set up a High Level Group chaired by the Commission to steer progress. A grant agreement for the power line crossing the **Bay of Biscay** totalling €578 million, will also be signed at the occasion. It will be the largest Connecting Europe Facility investment ever awarded to an energy infrastructure project. With 280 kilometres of electricity interconnection, the link will double by 2025 the exchange capacity between France and Spain and bring Spain closer to the 15% interconnection target contained in the new regulation on the governance of the Energy Union.

Background

The lack of sufficient interconnection capacity remains an obstacle for the creation of an electricity market in South-West Europe and has prevented Iberian energy companies from fully participating in the EU electricity market. With an interconnection capacity of only 6,000 MW, Spain and with it, Portugal remains largely an energy island that does not participate fully in the European electricity market. This interconnection capacity also puts them behind the 15% interconnection target contained in the recently adopted regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union. Since the Juncker Commission took office, energy interconnections between the Iberian Peninsula and the EU internal market have been boosted considerably.

Examples of progress:

- **Biscay Bay Line:** with 280 kilometres of electricity interconnection, it will double by 2025 the exchange capacity between France and Spain, bring Spain closer to the 10% interconnection target set by the European Council (from the current level of 6%) and will integrate the whole Iberian Peninsula into the internal electricity market. At Lisbon, it was awarded €578 million in [Connecting Europe Facility-Energy](#) grants, the largest ever awarded to an energy infrastructure project.
- **Santa-Llogaia-Baixas/INELFE project:** the completion in June 2017 of the phase-shifter transformer in Arkale, Spain, enabled the full utilisation of the Santa-Llogaia-Baixas interconnection between Spain and France, doubling the electricity interconnection capacity between both countries. These investments co-financed by the European Commission made it possible for Spain to help France and show solidarity during periods of supply-demand stress during the winter of 2017.
- **Interconnection project between Spain and Portugal** (Ponte Lima – Vila Nova Famalicão – Recarei (PT) and Beariz – Fontefría (ES)): it will allow Portugal to attain the 10% level of interconnections by increasing the current interconnection capacity level to 3.2 GW. The commissioning date of the project is planned by 2021.
- **Pyrenean crossings:** two projects to increase the electricity interconnection capacity between Spain and France across the Pyrenees are under consideration. A first link concerns Cantegrit in France and Navarra in Spain, and the other one Marsillon in France and Aragón in Spain.
- **Val de Saône gas pipeline:** it will contribute to Spanish and Portuguese access to the European Gas Market when completed by end 2018.
- **STEP project:** aims at increasing the bidirectional flows between the Iberian Peninsula and France and improve the interconnection with the internal gas market through the development of the Eastern gas axis, including a third interconnection point between Spain and Portugal.

Financing

In addition to the financing opportunities provided to infrastructure [projects of common interest \(PCIs\)](#) under the [energy window of the Connecting Europe Facility \(CEF\)](#) and the European Structural and Investment Funds, the [European Fund for Strategic Investment \(EFSI\)](#) (the so-called “Juncker Plan”) supports key interconnection projects, therefore accelerating and complementing the current structure of European financial assistance. The proposals for the [next EU budget for 2021-2027](#) include a new energy window under the Connecting Europe Facility, with a budget close to 1 billion euro (€865 million), to nurture Member States cooperation on cross-border

renewables projects.

More information

[Madrid declaration](#)

[More information on EU energy infrastructure](#)

Integration of the Iberian Peninsula into the internal energy market

1. **What is the current state-of-play of the energy interconnection of the Iberian Peninsula with the rest of the EU energy market?**

With an interconnection capacity of 6000 MW, Spain and with it the Iberian Peninsula remains largely an energy island that can hardly participate in the European electricity market. This means a level of interconnection capacity of only 6%, far behind the 15% interconnection target contained in the new regulation on the governance of the Energy Union.

The French and Iberian markets are interconnected thanks to two gas pipelines crossing the border at Larrau and Biriadou. The two pipelines offer an exchange capacity of around 7 billion cubic meter/year. For gas, there is no interconnection target established at European level.

2. **What was decided in Madrid in March 2015? What is the role of the High Level Group for Interconnections in South-West Europe? Since 2015, what progress has been achieved?**

The President of France, the President of Spain and Portugal and the President of the European Commission agreed in March 2015 in Madrid to complete the integration of the Iberian Peninsula into the Energy Union by giving priority to a number of electricity and gas infrastructure projects.

The European Commission put in place in June 2015 the High Level Group for Interconnections in South-West Europe to ensure the timely implementation of the Madrid political agreement. Since then, important progress has been achieved. The electricity interconnection capacity between France and Spain was doubled thanks to the commissioning of the Santa-Llogaia-Baixas power line in 2015. The completion in June 2017 of the transformer in Arkale, Spain enabled its full utilisation. These projects are examples of concrete achievements that bring concrete benefits to European citizens: their existence made it possible for Spain to help France and show solidarity during the winter of 2017.

Progress is not limited to electricity alone. In three months, the Val de Saône gas pipeline, supported once again by European funds, will be operational. It will make an important contribution to the unification of the French market while securing a better access for the Iberian Peninsula to the European gas market. In addition, the South Transit Eastern Pyrenees pipeline regulatory treatment is currently assessed by the national authorities.

3. What are the key elements of the Lisbon declaration signed today?

The Lisbon declaration outlines the important progress achieved in the implementation of key priority projects to plug the Iberian Peninsula to the internal energy market. The Lisbon Declaration also underlines the contribution of these priority projects to energy security, competitiveness and sustainability as well as to the achievement of the EU commitments under the Paris agreement while accelerating investments, spur economic growth and jobs.

In addition, leaders agreed to strengthen the regional cooperation, notably in the field of renewables and energy efficiency cross-border projects which may bring benefits when developed at regional level.

4. What are the ongoing key infrastructure projects to ensure the integration of the Iberian Peninsula into the internal energy market? When will they be completed?

The Biscay Bay power line between France and Spain entered a decisive step in its development with the EU financial participation of 578 million euros. Once completed, by 2025, it will bring Spain closer to the 15% interconnection target contained in the new regulation on the governance of the Energy Union, and will integrate the whole Iberian Peninsula into the internal electricity market.

A link between Cantegrit in France and Navarra in Spain and another one between Marsillon in France and Aragón in Spain are currently being analysed by the project promoters. These two links are aimed at further increasing the electricity interconnection capacity between Spain and France.

The interconnection project between Spain and Portugal (Ponte Lima – Vila Nova Famalicão – Recarei and Beariz – Fontefría) will allow Portugal to attain the 10% level of interconnections by increasing the current interconnection capacity level to 3.2 GW. The commissioning date of the project is planned by 2021.

On the gas side, the Val de Saône pipeline in France which will contribute to Spanish and Portuguese access to the European Gas Market will be completed in October 2018.

The South Transit Eastern Pyrenees pipeline regulatory treatment is currently being assessed by the national regulators. The development of the third

interconnection point between Spain and Portugal is connected to the increase of interconnection capacity between Spain and France.

5. What other measures are being put in place, besides the construction of physical infrastructures?

The implementation of the Madrid Declaration is ensured thanks to regional cooperation. Today, leaders agreed on ways to strengthen the regional cooperation between Spain, France and Portugal in the framework of the Energy Union, beyond infrastructures to cover renewables and energy efficiency, in the region and beyond, and in particular with our Euro Mediterranean partners.

6. What is the role and potential of renewable energy in the Iberian Peninsula?

The Iberian Peninsula has a lot to offer for the success of the clean energy transition in the European Union and most notably in terms of renewables. Portugal is one of the EU leading countries in renewables, with a high penetration of hydro and wind. Since 2014 more than half of electricity consumption is supplied by renewable sources and recently Portugal broke a new record with renewable power production surpassing total electricity consumption. Spain and France also have a high potential for developing renewable energy sources in a cost-effective way.

7. Are citizens and stakeholders being consulted in this process?

All priority projects identified in the Madrid Declaration are projects of common interest.

The identification of Projects of Common Interest is governed by Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and conducted in an open and transparent manner, providing the opportunity for individuals and organized civil society to express their views throughout the process. The process is carried out, under the leadership of the Commission, by the regional Working Groups. These are composed of different members representing social, environmental and consumer stakeholders.

Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 imposes the obligation for project promoters to organize at least one public consultation with citizens and other stakeholders in the early stages of the planning process of their project, as well as setting up a webpage with clear and updated information on the technical aspects of the project, the stages of its implementation and the status and results of the environmental assessments that have to be carried out under EU Law.