

Proposta de intervenção do Senhor Ministro do Ambiente e da Ação
Climática na Reunião Ministerial Plenário do Dia da Energia

25ª Conferência das Partes da Convenção-Quadro das Nações Unidas para
as Alterações Climáticas

10 de dezembro

Your Excellency Minister of Energy of Chile, Juan Jobet
Distinguished Minister for Ecological Transition of Spain, Teresa Ribera,
Honourable Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, Fatih
Birol,
Dear Ministers,
Ladies and gentlemen

It is with great satisfaction that Portugal participates in the Energy Day of the 25th Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. In fact, we are fully convinced that we can't properly address the challenge of climate change mitigation without seriously considering the role of our energy policies.

Globally, the use of energy represents the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities and we cannot proceed with the global decarbonisation of our economies without a serious commitment and corresponding actions to ensure a deep energy transition.

In 2016, in Marrakech, the Portuguese Government announced its commitment to become carbon neutral by 2050.

To comply with this commitment a Carbon Neutrality Roadmap was legally approved and submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat, in September 2019, as the Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality of the Portuguese Economy by 2050. This Long-term strategy was delivered one year ahead of the deadline,

confirming the strong commitment of the Portuguese government with the implementation of the Paris Agreement and its intention to be at the forefront of the transition towards a low carbon, competitive and resilient economy.

Having a long-term vision and a roadmap to get there are key to provide certainty and transparency to society and to markets, and a good starting point to discuss carbon neutrality pathways.

But this commitment is not only for the long-term. We know that we must concentrate our efforts in the next decade and for that reason we have revisited our goals for 2030.

Ladies and Gentleman, our ambition is to :

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions by -45-55% in relation to 2005;
- We set a 35% target for energy efficiency;
- achieve a 47% target of renewables in gross final energy consumption;
- achieve a level of 80% or higher of renewables in electric consumption;
- reduce emissions from the transport sector by 40%.

These are ambitious targets, but also realistic ones, based on our past path and in line with our future challenges such as the project for converting fossil fuels hubs into hydrogen ones.

Achieving carbon neutrality requires a real energy transformation. Accordingly, we decided to close our two coal-fired power plants by 2021 and 2023.

We already have a 54% renewable share in electricity generation, and we are accelerating energy uptake, focusing mainly on solar, to reach 80% in 2030 and 100% by 2050.

And we are well positioned to reach these targets as demonstrated by the recent first solar energy auction, where world record prices were broken (14.76 €/Mwh), confirming the competitiveness of the renewable energy sources. We will launch another auction of 700 MW in the first trimester of 2020. We aim to reach an installed capacity of 6 to 7 GW in our photovoltaic centrals until 2027.

We are firmly convinced that the energy transition is an opportunity to lower cost for consumers and to leverage the competitiveness of our economy. For the last 4 years, electricity price decreased 8.3% in Portugal, while it increased 6% in Europe.

Another relevant vector of this energy transition refers to transport. To comply with our target of reducing transport emissions of GEE in 40% until 2030, we have launched the greatest European project of renovation of public bus fleets with relevant environmental performance in Europe and we have significantly reduced the cost of public transportation for passengers.

Finally, we have the firm conviction that energy efficiency must be a priority. We are committed to strengthen our policies in this domain with concrete actions in all economic sectors as we will strongly develop energy efficiency in buildings, public administration infrastructures and public lightening.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Portugal is reinforcing the areas of research and innovation oriented towards new technologies and clean energies, since they play an essential and horizontal role in the decarbonisation of the economy and energy transition. This is the case for hydrogen production from renewable electricity and bio methane, which are relevant vectors that Portugal is exploring, namely in industry and transport sectors. Portugal, has a strong potential to produce and

export green hydrogen, and is very engaged in exploring common actions for the conversion and transformation of basic fossil fuels transport infrastructures into appropriated facilities for hydrogen exploitation - as for instance pipelines, harbours, ships or fuel stations. We are reaching the moment where we have to adopt the necessary actions to consolidate an international market for Hydrogen.

I wish to conclude by underlining our commitment to carbon neutrality and to fight climate change, and assuring that Portugal is firmly engaged to continue at the forefront of the energy transition towards a low carbon and sustainable economy which ensures well-being for all.