

H2-diplo Decarbonization Dialogue: Geopolitics meets Green Transition – The Role of Spain in Europe’s Energy Future

11 November 2025 | 11am CET (Registration: 10:30am) |
Espacio Bertelsmann, Madrid (Calle de O’Donnell, 10, 28009 Madrid)

Agenda

Moderation: **Maria Noack**, Advisor, H2-diplo/ GIZ

11:00 am **Welcoming Words**

H.E. Maria Margarete Gosse, Ambassador, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

11:10 am **Keynote: „Geopolitics of the Energy transition and its implications for Spain and Europe”**

David Criekemans, Associate Professor, University of Antwerp

11:30 am **Panel Discussion: “Power Shift: How renewables are redefining Spain’s geopolitical position”**

Moderation: **Gonzalo Escribano**, Director Energy and Climate Change Programme, Real Instituto Elcano

- **Rim Berahab**, Senior Economist, Policy Center for the New South (Morocco)
 - **José Miguel Macho**, Business Development Director for Hydrogen and P2X Applications for South West Europe, Siemens Energy
 - **María Teresa Nonay Domingo**, Strategy & Planning Director, Enagás
 - **José Manuel Rodríguez Martínez**, Global Head for Government and Institutional Affairs, Iberdrola
 - **Artur Patuleia**, Senior Associate, E3G
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12:50 pm **Closing Remarks**

Charles Powell, Director, Real Instituto Elcano

13:00 pm **Cocktail and Networking**

Background

Spain is positioning itself as a leader in renewable energy and green hydrogen production, with the potential to reshape both its industrial competitiveness and energy security. Beyond these opportunities, the country is already experiencing the tangible effects of climate change, including more frequent heatwaves, longer wildfire seasons, water scarcity, and desertification in certain regions. The urgency of the energy transition therefore becomes increasingly evident. By addressing these challenges head-on, Spain is accelerating its shift towards a greener economy and creating a more resilient and sustainable future.

Thanks to abundant renewable resources, technical expertise, and strong institutions, Spain has become a hub for solar and wind energy, already supplying 56% of its electricity needs through renewables in 2024. The country is also making significant investments in green hydrogen, which has the potential to decarbonize industries such as steel, chemicals, and transport, while creating new opportunities to attract value chains supported by trends like nearshoring and greenshoring.

The shift towards renewables not only supports Spain's climate goals and economic growth but also contributes to strengthening energy security at the EU level. This development places Spain in a highly advantageous geopolitical position, as it is on the path to becoming a driver of European green electricity and hydrogen production, thereby supporting the diversification of European energy supplies and reducing international dependencies. Nevertheless, Spain remains poorly interconnected with France and the wider EU. Current projects, in particular those related to electricity, fall short of EU interconnection goals, limiting Iberia's role in enhancing European energy security and decarbonization.

This half-day event will examine the interplay between Spain's evolving geopolitical role and its progress in the energy transition and hydrogen ramp-up, highlighting how these dynamics are mutually reinforcing. It will also demonstrate which adjustments still need to be made to ensure hydrogen can fulfill its geopolitical and economic potential for Spain and the EU. Particular attention will be paid to the role of European and international partnerships, including those for technology and knowledge transfer. The event facilitates the dialogue between key players from public, private and scientific institutions on these topics.