

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001845/25
to the Commission
Dolors Montserrat (PPE)
(7 May 2025)

Subject: Vulnerability of Spain's electricity system and delays in meeting interconnection targets

The massive power cut on 28 April 2025 that left the Iberian Peninsula without electricity and affected critical infrastructure has once again highlighted how fragile Spain's electricity system is, as well as its low level of interconnection with the rest of Europe.

Although the 10% electricity interconnection target should have been met by 2020, Spain is still stuck at around 3% of its installed capacity, one of the lowest levels in the EU. And despite the fact that projects such as the undersea interconnection across the Bay of Biscay (due to be completed by 2028) are under way, other key infrastructure projects have been postponed until 2035, seriously compromising both the security of the system and the achievement of the 15% target by 2030. As a result, the Iberian Peninsula is still structurally isolated.

In view of the above:

1. What specific steps is the Commission intending to take to ensure that the 15% electricity interconnection targets set for 2030 are met without further delay?
2. Does the Commission take the view that Spain's low interconnection rates are compromising the integration of the European energy market and the stability of electricity systems at a time when the penetration of renewables is on the increase?

Submitted: 7.5.2025

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen on behalf of the European Commission
(26 September 2025)

By supporting the construction of the necessary infrastructure, the EU has been helping to better integrate Iberian peninsula to the European power system and it continues to do so ⁽¹⁾. For this purpose, the Commission will continue to work with the Member States, Transmission System Operators and National Regulatory Authorities in the framework of the High-Level Group on Interconnections in South-West Europe to accelerate the implementation of interconnection priority projects in the region.

The Commission will also put forward a Grids Package by the end of 2025 with measures to achieve a more European approach to the identification of infrastructure needs and a more efficient use of existing infrastructure.

Integration of the market is measured by price convergence ⁽²⁾. While a lower interconnection rate may contribute to a lower integration of the market it is important to strive for maximum usage of the existing interconnectors.

Stability of the power system can be measured in many different ways ⁽³⁾. The level of interconnection is just one element contributing to power system stability which depends on several factors such as the locational distribution of the generation mix, network topology, network elements supporting grid stability, etc. Overall therefore, while higher interconnection rates support security of supply, low interconnection rates taken alone do not indicate that stability of the electricity system is compromised.

⁽¹⁾ As an example, interconnectivity between France and Spain will double with the commissioning in 2028 of the Biscay Bay project, which is under construction and progressing well in both countries. The project was granted EUR 578 million of EU financial support under the Connecting Europe Facility.

⁽²⁾ The basis for calculating the offered capacity is indeed the thermal rating of the physical interconnection, though it is reduced due in the planning process, considering operational security limits (related to static and dynamic stability of the power system) and operational planning criteria (such as n-1).

⁽³⁾ I.e. static stability and dynamic stability such as rotor angle stability, frequency stability and voltage stability.