

INTERLIGAÇÕES DE GÁS PENÍNSULA IBÉRICA/FRANÇA

Joint Declaration

CNE, CRE and ERSE wish to favour the development of gas interconnections
between the Iberian Peninsula and France

The Comisión Nacional de Energía of Spain, the Commission de Régulation de l'Energie of France and the Entidade Reguladora dos Serviços Energéticos of Portugal want to actively contribute to the development of the single European gas market.

They believe that a crucial step in this direction is to increase interconnections, which should operate in both ways, between the Iberian Peninsula and France.

The increase in the capacity of the Lacq-Calahorra line, the building of a Bilbao-Lussagnet line on the Atlantic coast and the building of a new line on the Mediterranean coast would contribute to the development of competition in the internal gas market by increasing the number of potential suppliers both in the Iberian Peninsula and in South West of France. They would also allow a larger number of consumers to benefit from existing and future gas storages.

These interconnections would widen gas markets for the new imports facilities, the Medgas line between Algeria and Spain and the new LNG terminals in Spain, in Portugal and in the South of France.

They would facilitate the creation of hubs encompassing the Iberian Peninsula and the South of France, which are needed for the good functioning of the internal gas market, and would improve gas security of supply in the Iberian Peninsula and in the South West of France. Those are pre-requisites for a real integration of the Iberian Peninsula and the South West of France in the internal energy market.

The energy regulators of France, Portugal and Spain jointly support adequate measures favouring the development of these interconnections. In particular, they will promote the implementation of appropriate economic incentives, transparent tariff systems and non discriminatory network access rules facilitating the development of efficient gas trade.

Lisboa, 7 de Julho de 2003