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Answer given by Ms Simson
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission has continuously supported the better integration of the Iberian Peninsula in the EU internal energy market, including through new electricity and gas interconnections. Since the 2015 Madrid Declaration and the creation of the High Level Group on Interconnections for South-West Europe, important progress has been made as confirmed by the Lisbon Declaration¹.

Under Regulation 347/2013 on Trans-European Energy Networks (TEN-E)², the Commission establishes, every two years, the Union list of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs). When assessing candidate projects for the Union list of PCIs, the Commission considers all strategic objectives of the Energy Union including increased diversification and security of supply, as well as the needs of market integration and clean energy transition.

The decision-making body of each Regional Group, representing respective Member States, adopts a regional list of proposed PCIs. Each individual proposal for a PCI requires the approval of all the Member States, to whose territory the project relates.

The 4th Union list of PCIs includes four electricity interconnection projects that are instrumental for the further integration of Portugal to the European internal energy market.

The Commission has taken note of the opposition of some Member States, which is their prerogative, to new gas interconnections with the Iberian Peninsula on their territory.

The Commission will continue to use the High Level Group on Interconnections for South-West Europe to ensure continued progress on the priority projects in the region.

¹ Signed in July 2018

² OJ L 115, 25.4.2013, p. 39