

# ENERGY AND CLIMATE FUTURES:

## RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE POST COVID-19

ANNUAL EVENT OF THE SPANISH COMMITTEE  
OF THE WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL

### DIGITAL EVENT

OCTOBER 27th 2020



Organized by:



CLUB ESPAÑOL  
DE LA ENERGÍA



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## Introduction

The traditional annual event of the Spanish Committee of the World Energy Council (CECME), entitled "Energy and Climate Futures: Recovery and Resilience Post COVID-19", will take place this year on October 27th, from 11:00 to 13:00 am.

The event - organized together with the Spanish Energy Club and the Elcano Royal Institute, and sponsored by CEPISA- is planned to be a session with some speakers physically present if possible and the audience virtually connected.

It is divided in two sessions: a round table focused on the impact of COVID-19 crisis in the energy sector and the possible recovery scenarios, with a debate trying to integrate the energy, business/industry, economic and political point of views; and a second session which includes a debate on how citizens are facing the energy and climate challenges in times of COVID-19.

Round Table 1:

### The impact of COVID-19 in the energy sector and possible recovery scenarios

The global energy landscape has been experiencing a substantial shift in the last years, with an increasing emphasis in aligning energy policies with the warnings of scientific community regarding the fight against climate change and advancing decarbonisation. The COVID-19 crisis, far from altering these priorities, may imply a significant acceleration for these trends. As IEA's Executive Director Fatih Birol has recently written, the corona-crisis implies fast-forwarding the energy sector, and sends a "postcard from the future" showing how the energy sector may look like in the coming decades. This message is especially relevant for the EU, which by 2050 has committed to reach net zero GHG emissions. If the COVID-19 crisis has accelerated ongoing energy trends, coping with the energy transition has become a more urgent task for the EU and its Member States. The Green Deal, the hallmark project of the new European Commission, has been now supplemented by Green Recovery plans, putting sustainable recovery at the core of European policies. In the international domain, the German Presidency has committed to prepare a new Energy Diplomacy Action Plan to take into account the transformations incurred by the global energy system and its geopolitical implications.

This round table aims to address these and other related issues, trying to integrate the energy, business, economic and political points of view, and trying to shed some light on questions like: what would be the evolution of the energy sector in the post COVID-19 world? To what extent would it accelerate the energy transition or, to the contrary, whether it may slow it in those countries and regions more concerned with fast economic recovery than sustainability? Which scenarios should be considered by the energy sector? What will be the influence on EU and Member States energy and recovery policies? How will it impact global, EU and Member States' energy geopolitics and geo-economics? What will be the role of the financial sector?

Dialogue:

## Citizens facing energy and climate challenges in times of COVID-19

COVID-19 has brought a rude awakening to what a global, concatenated and rapidly evolving crisis means. A crisis that could be dwarfed by the impacts of climate change, according to science. How consumers will respond to the pandemic in the energy and climate arenas will be determined in the coming months and years, with important implications for companies and policy-makers alike.

A steep increase household savings rates, drops in GDP and high unemployment rates are delaying or thwarting purchases of durable goods such as vehicles. However, security concerns are said to be at the root of higher use of private vehicles for those who have gone back to work. For instance, in a recent IPSOS survey two out of three interviewees in China, (the largest car market in the world) stated they prefer to travel by private car vis-à-vis public transport, double the amount prior to the pandemic. Additionally, new car purchase intention in China is increasing due to health concerns and lack of trust in public transport.

Conversely, the awareness of the link between zoonosis and a degraded environment has been highlighted as a reason to fast-track and mainstream pro-environmental policies and behaviour. Teleworking has become the norm across a number of sectors and geographies during the worst part of the pandemic. Mobility has been severely constrained and certain cities have converted streets into pedestrian-only spaces, at least temporarily. Citizens have enjoyed better air quality and less noise. They have spent less time travelling and more time with their families.

The question remains regarding whether the end of the pandemic will reinforce low-carbon behaviours and consumption patterns or whether citizens will revert to high-carbon lifestyles. Behavioural changes towards lower carbon consumption models is known to be slow and shaped by path dependencies and culture. The dialogue in the second session will analyse these and related topics and will be followed by a Q&A session with attendees.

## Programme

**11:00 - 11:30**

### INAUGURAL SESSION

**Philippe Boisseau**

*Director and CEO  
CEPSA*

**Emilio Lamo de Espinosa**

*Chairman  
ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE*

**María Victoria Zingoni**

*President  
SPANISH ENERGY CLUB (ENERCLUB)*

**Angela Wilkinson**

*Secretary General  
WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL*

**11:30 - 12:30**

### ROUND TABLE - THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN THE ENERGY SECTOR AND POSSIBLE RECOVERY SCENARIOS

Moderator

**Diego Rodríguez Rodríguez**

*Professor of Economy  
University Complutense Madrid  
Researcher at FEDEA*

Speakers

**Yolanda García Mezquita**

*Deputy head of unit "Strategy and policy coordination"  
DG Energy, EUROPEAN COMMISSION*

**Birthe Bruhn-Léon**

*Director for Operations in Iberia  
EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB)*

**María Mendiluce**

*CEO  
WE MEAN BUSINESS COALITION*

**Martin Young**

*Senior Director, Scenarios  
and Business Insights  
WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL*

**12:30 - 13:00**

### DIALOGUE: CITIZENS FACING ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHALLENGES IN TIMES OF COVID-19

Moderator

**Íñigo Díaz de Espada**

*Chair  
SPANISH COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL*

Speakers

**Dr. Loreto Barrios**

*Researcher, Architect and Psychologist*

**Dr. Stuart Capstick**

*Deputy Director  
Centro for Climate Change and  
Social Transformations  
UK (CAST Centre)*

## Information and registration

### VENUE

Digital Event

### REGISTRATION

On-line registration only here: [Registration](#)

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### REGISTRATION FEES

Free registration



#CECME20

You can start sending your questions for  
the panelists through

SLIDO.COM - SLIDO: #CECME

or to the following email [cecme@enerclub.es](mailto:cecme@enerclub.es)

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