



**RED ELÉCTRICA**  
DE ESPAÑA

**Video Script**  
**“International interconnections”**



Imagine a European country, like France for example, had just one road to export their goods and receive the millions of tourists that visit every year. It would seriously limit economic development. Therefore, it would never happen.

So why is it happening here in Spain with our electricity supply?

Despite having an efficient national infrastructure, we are effectively isolated from the rest of our continent - unable to enjoy the important benefits that come from being connected to the rest of the European grid.

In 2002 the EU recommended that by 2020 all member states should have interconnected power grids with the possibility that at least 10% of their total supply could be imported and exported through these connections. This target was reviewed in 2014 and re-set to 15% by 2030.

So where are we now?

In 2015 we inaugurated a new interconnection with France across the Pyrenees, bringing our level of interconnection up to 2.8% of total capacity. We still have a long way to go to reach our goals.

The wider objectives set by the EU for 2030 are ambitious – a low-carbon economy, a greater reliance on renewables and even higher levels of efficiency. Being interconnected is an essential part of meeting these targets.

So what does being interconnected mean?

We take it for granted that our train lines and roads seamlessly link us to the rest of Europe. Well, the power lines and substations that link us to our neighbours enable us to share our power supplies and respond much more effectively to demand. The result is a much larger and more robust network.

Why is this important?

Primarily, it gives us a much more secure and stable power supply, which can be especially important in emergency situations. It also allows us to become much more efficient and competitive. We would be able to access the cheapest source of power and deliver it more cost effectively – therefore reducing the price of energy in a European electricity market.

Perhaps most importantly, being interconnected is part of a commitment to greater sustainability and to the closer integrations of renewable energies. Clean energy that isn't used in one country can be delivered and used in another – reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and external sources.

The benefits that interconnectivity offers us will allow our energy grid to become more robust, more efficient and more sustainable – as well as supporting isolated systems, such as the insular systems.

The challenge ahead is a considerable one, and we'll need the full support of our communities. We all stand to benefit, not least consumers. Red Eléctrica is fully committed to an interconnected future and is actively taking strides to increase our connections to the wider European grid.

We are putting connections in place to the rest of central Europe along the seabed in the Bay of Biscay and two new lines across the Pyrenees. We have the full support and collaboration of the Spanish and French governments as well as the European Commission. These steps will



raise our level of interconnection to 8,000 MW – taking us to 8% of capacity with the intention to deliver 10%.

A main priority for the coming years is to consolidate and develop our international interconnectivity, and links between islands. The future wellbeing of our society needs an energy supply that is efficient, robust and sustainable.

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We care for your energy