

According to data from the 'The Spanish Electricity System. Preliminary Report 2020'

## Electricity production on the Balearic Islands with coal fell by almost 90% while renewable energy reached its highest share in the Islands' generation mix

- The contribution of the electricity link with the Spanish Peninsula covers almost a third of the demand on the Balearic Islands.
- Renewables were responsible for 6.7% of the electricity generated on the islands, surpassing coal-fired generation and reaching an all-time high since records began in 2007.
- Electricity demand in the archipelago fell by 19.2% in 2020.

Palma, 12 March 2021

The Balearic Islands closed 2020 with the virtual disappearance of coal-fired electricity generation, which reduced its production by 88.9%, and contributed only 6.3% of the total generation when in 2019 it was the leading technology in the archipelago with a share of 45.2%. This data is published in the 'Spanish Electricity System. Preliminary Report 2020', a publication prepared by Red Eléctrica de España (REE) and which REE presented today at an event held at the Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge. A report that collates the main annual figures of the Spanish electricity system for 2020, a year in which renewable generation surpassed that of coal-fired for the first time in its history.

For the Chairwoman of Red Eléctrica, Beatriz Corredor, "the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan sets ambitious, but also realistic and achievable goals to mitigate climate change by moving towards a new system in which renewable energies are the cornerstone. And along this road towards the energy transition, the electricity sector plays a key role due to its decarbonisation potential."

The lower contribution of coal to the islands' generation mix in 2020 is a consequence of the hourly limitation on coal power which has been in place in the archipelago since December 2018 and due to the reduction of installed coal-fired power capacity, which has seen its presence halved compared to 2019 and at year end represented only 11.8% of the power generation fleet on the Islands. In addition, the commissioning of new MWs of solar photovoltaic capacity has increased the overall renewable power capacity in the Balearic Islands by 17.7%, reaching 7.2% of the total.

Combined cycle power stations accounted for 68.6% of the electricity generated in the archipelago in 2020, followed by fuel/gas generation, which contributed 14.1% to the Balearic Islands' mix. The boost from solar photovoltaic, which was responsible for 3.4% of the electricity generated in the archipelago, meant that renewables reached a share of 6.7% in the islands' generation mix, the highest share since records began in 2007.

Electricity demand in the Balearic Islands dropped by 19.2% compared to 2019, a fall mainly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This drop is a sharp contrast when compared with the slight difference (-0.9%) registered in 2019 with regard to 2018.



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The contribution of the link between the Spanish Peninsula and the Balearic Islands covered almost a third of the Islands' electricity demand in 2020, specifically 28.9% of the total demand, a value that exceeds that recorded in 2019 by 1.2 percentage points.

The electricity interconnection with the Spanish Peninsula transfers electricity from the mainland's more diversified energy generation structure and therefore increases the presence of renewables in the archipelago: Throughout 2020, 17.7% of the total energy supplied via the link was green, a higher share than that recorded in 2019, which was 15%.

### **2020, Spain's greenest year on record**

Renewables produced 44% of the total energy generated in Spain last year, making 2020 the *greenest* year since national records began in 2007. In total, 110,450 GWh were generated from natural and inexhaustible resources such as wind, sun and water, which represents an increase of 12.8% compared to the data for 2019.

The report, which includes the key performance indicators regarding the electricity sector in Spain over the past year, highlights the record production of wind power, responsible for more than a fifth of the total annual generation, and solar photovoltaic, which recorded an increase of 65% compared to the values for 2019. These two renewable technologies were responsible for 21.9% and 6.1%, respectively, of the total annual electricity generation in Spain in 2020.

Achieving this increase in renewable production in Spain would not have been possible without the installation of new MWs of renewable power. At the end of 2020, Spain's complete power generation fleet had increased its renewable power capacity by 4,015 MW, with solar photovoltaic being the technology that has risen the most, with a growth of 29.5% compared to 2019, followed by wind power, which has grown by 5.3%, making it the leading technology nationwide.

In addition, during the past year, 3,950 MW of coal-fired power capacity were decommissioned in Spain, which contributed to the fact that as at 31 December 2020, the total installed renewable power capacity accounted for 53.8% of Spain's overall production capacity.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had direct consequences on electricity consumption, which in Spain fell to 249,819 GWh, a drop of 5.6% compared to 2019. After having factored in the influence of seasonal temperatures (+0.1%) and working patterns (-0.1%), electricity demand maintained the same variation as in gross terms, falling 5.6 % compared to the previous year.