

## New Report Urges Brussels to Prioritise Energy Connectivity with Iberia

**Brussels, 28 July 2025** – A new policy paper by the [Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos](#) (FFMS) and the [Brookings Institution](#) warns that the Iberian Peninsula’s limited energy interconnection with the rest of Europe poses a growing strategic vulnerability and calls on EU policymakers to treat it as an urgent priority.

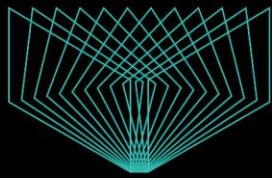
Titled “[After the Energy Crisis: Policy Responses in the Iberian Peninsula](#)”, the paper examines the swift and effective Iberian response to the 2022 energy crisis triggered by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Thanks to abundant renewables, robust liquefied natural gas ([LNG](#)) infrastructure and innovative tools like the “[Iberian exception](#),” the region helped stabilise markets while shielding households from the worst impacts of the crisis.

Despite this strong performance and broad public support for the energy transition, the authors of the policy paper argue that poor grid connectivity continues to hamstring Iberia’s contribution to Europe’s energy resilience.

*“The Iberian Peninsula has what it takes to be a clean energy leader in Europe. But the blackout in April 2025 exposed how vulnerable it is without stronger interconnections,” said co-author Gonzalo Escribano, Head of the Energy & Climate Programme at the Elcano Royal Institute. “Enhancing connectivity is essential to fully unlocking Iberia’s potential and securing Europe’s energy future.”*

### Connectivity Bottlenecks Undermine European Resilience

Today, just 3% of Iberia’s electricity capacity is [connected](#) to the wider EU grid, far below the 15% target for 2030. This bottleneck limits the Peninsula’s ability to contribute fully to European energy security, decarbonisation goals and green industrial growth. While ongoing interconnection projects with France are underway, the authors stress that Europe must go further, faster.



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The authors also frame the issue as a geopolitical imperative. As global competition intensifies and transatlantic trade relations rise, reinforcing internal energy infrastructure to reduce external dependencies and strengthen strategic autonomy has never been more urgent.

**About the authors:** The policy paper was authored by a team of researchers, including [Gonzalo Escribano](#), [Ana Fontoura Gouveia](#), [João Fachada](#) and [Ignacio Urbasos](#). It is the fourth instalment in a six-part series titled “*Europe’s Energy Transition: Balancing the Trilemma*”, produced by the FFMS-Brookings Institution partnership, and coordinated by [Constanze Stelzenmüller](#) and [Samantha Gross](#). The series examines how Europe can align its energy security, affordability and climate objectives. The series will be presented by FFMS at a high-level conference in Brussels this November.

**About the Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos (FFMS):** Founded in 2009 by [Alexandre Soares dos Santos](#) and his family, FFMS aims to elevate public debate in Portugal and Europe by producing accessible, evidence-based research on major national and European societal issues. FFMS publishes books and [research studies](#), hosts high-level debates, and maintains open-access data platforms on major societal issues, such as poverty and inequality, the economy and public policy, to support informed decision-making. (<https://ffms.pt/en/foundation>)

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