

According to data from the '2019 Spanish Electricity System Preliminary Report'

## The electricity link with the Spanish peninsula covered 27.7% of demand on the Balearic Islands in 2019

- This figure is the highest since the link was commissioned in 2012.
- The Ibiza-Majorca interconnection, which provided an average coverage of 56%, and in many periods covering 100%, of the demand of Ibiza-Formentera.
- Local generation in Ibiza has decreased by 54% during the period.
- Nearly 15% of the energy transferred from the Spanish peninsula through the interconnection link came from renewable sources.

Palma de Mallorca, 12 March 2020

In 2019, the electricity link between Majorca and the Spanish peninsula reached its maximum average annual contribution since it was commissioned in 2012 and contributed to cover 27.7% of the electricity demand in the Balearic Islands. In 2019, demand covered on the islands by means of this infrastructure increased by 37% compared to 2018. This increase is directly related to the operation of the Ibiza-Majorca link that, over the past year and with an average annual coverage of 56%, has covered the demand on the Islands of Ibiza and Formentera, and on numerous occasions and during different time periods covered 100% of the demand on these Islands.

Throughout 2019, the electricity demand of the Balearic Islands experienced a slight increase (0.9%), going from 6,057 GWh in 2018 to 6,114 GWh in 2019, according to the data included in the '2019 Spanish Electricity System Preliminary Report' published by Red Eléctrica de España.

This increase in the contribution made to cover the demand on the Balearic Islands through the link with the Spanish peninsula is related to the submarine interconnection between Ibiza and Majorca, which came into operation in March 2016. Since December 2018, energy exchanges can be scheduled through this link thus allowing the integration of all the islands into the Balearic Islands electricity system.

The operation of this link exemplifies the advantages of interconnections and has brought about a radical change in the structure of demand coverage in Ibiza and Formentera. Throughout 2019, this link has covered on average more than half of the demand of Ibiza and Formentera (56%), reaching 100% on numerous occasions and during different time periods (except for the summer season and the demand peaks associated to the summer period). This contribution throughout 2019 has allowed local generation on the island of Ibiza to be reduced by more than half, up to 54%.

### 15% of energy received by the Balearic Islands through the link comes from renewable sources

The link with the Spanish peninsula allows a more diversified energy mix, in relation to the electricity generated directly in the Balearic Islands, to be transferred to the Islands, and a substantial part of the energy transferred comes from renewable energy technologies on the Peninsula. In 2019, of the energy transferred through this link, nearly 15% (14.96%) came from renewable sources. This contribution becomes more important if it is contrasted with the renewable generation located on the Balearic Islands, which in 2019 was 6.2% (including renewable energy generated from waste).



For its part, the Ibiza-Majorca interconnection also allowed energy from renewable sources to be transferred to Ibiza and Formentera in the same proportion, where the local renewable generation as a whole is 0.2%.

#### Electricity generation in the Balearic Islands

Compared to the previous year, in 2019 of note was the 8.4% decrease in generation on the Balearic Islands. Broken down by technology, coal-fired electricity generation fell 16.6%, fuel/gas fell 34.8%, while on the other hand combined cycle experienced an increase of 77%. Despite the fact that the main sources of generation located on the Balearic Islands continue to be coal and fuel/gas, 2019 reflects data that evidences a change in the model that will become more evident over the coming years. In fact, the decommissioning of two of the coal-fired generating units of the Alcudia II thermal power station and the time restrictions imposed on the other two units since December 2019, has enabled coal to disappear from the Balearic Islands generation mix so far in 2020.

The installed power generating capacity in the Balearic Islands represents 2% of the national total and amounts to 2,243 MW. In 2019, the installed power capacity on the islands has decreased slightly, by 1.8%, mainly due to a 5.4% reduction in the case of fuel/gas and the decommissioning of three fuel/gas generating units that were part of the Ibiza power station.

#### The national electricity system, increasingly 'greener'

At national level, unequivocal progress is also being made on the road towards the energy transition. In 2019, the increase in installed renewable power capacity meant that for the first time ever these technologies already account for 50% of the country's total generation capacity (110 GW in total). As a whole, the complete set of generating facilities in Spain has grown by 5.9%. Combined cycle continues to be the leader in installed power capacity (23.8% of the total) but it is closely followed by two renewable sources: wind (23.3%) and hydro (15.5%).

Specifically, this past year 6,539 'green' MWs were commissioned, which has meant an increase of 13.4% in renewable generation capacity compared to 2018. The set of renewable generating facilities closed 2019 with an overall installed power capacity of 55,195 MW, of which 47% correspond to wind, 16% photovoltaic and 37% belong to other 'green' technologies.

This firm backing for clean energy sources has meant that, of the 260,713 GWh of electricity generated nationwide in Spain in 2019, 37.5% was produced using these technologies. Wind power generation was 9.3% higher than in 2018, occupying third place in the mix with a share of 20.8% after nuclear power (21.4%) and combined cycle (21.2%). Also noteworthy is the decline in the share of coal whose production fell by 66% in 2019 - the lowest level since records began.

Consequently, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with electricity generation have experienced a notable reduction compared to 2018 (23% less), totalling 49.6 million tonnes, the lowest figure in the history of the Spanish electricity system.

For its part, electricity demand nationwide closed 2019 at 264,550 GWh, slightly lower than in 2018 (1.6% less). After factoring in the influence of seasonal patterns and working days, the decrease stands at 2.5% compared to the previous year.