

Major renewable themes under analysis at the APREN conference

The Minister for the Economy of the Sea, António Costa Silva, and the Secretary of State for the Environment and Energy, João Galamba, are some of the names confirmed at APREN's annual conference. This will have the motto "Energy transition – from plans to action", and panels dedicated to offshore renewables, green hydrogen and electricity market design, among others.



The major themes of renewable energy will be analyzed at the APREN – Portuguese Renewable Energy Association conference, the Portugal Renewable Energy Summit 2022, which will take place on the 16th and 17th of November at the Culturgest Grand Auditorium, in Lisbon.

The Portugal Renewable Energy Summit, which has already established itself as the great forum for debate in the energy area, with a history of more than 10 years, will once again bring to the debate the truly relevant themes. For two days some of the main specialists in the field of renewable energies, at national and international level, will analyze, panel by panel, the key themes of the sector.

REPowerEU – the new European ambition will be one of the big topics on the table. The geopolitical situation generated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine brought to the agenda the urgency of Europe's autonomy in terms of energy and, consequently, the need to accelerate the energy transition and diversify sources of supply.

In the REPowerEU plan, launched this year, the European Commission proposes to increase the final consumption target of energy from renewable sources, from the current 40%, foreseen in the FIT for 55 package, to 45% in 2030. The plan is to double the installed capacity of solar energy and increase the installed capacity of wind energy, on land and at sea, from 190 GW to 480 GW in the next eight years. This is also why oceanic renewables are on the conference's agenda, as is green hydrogen, which is part of this European strategy. The opportunities and threats of the development of this technology, particularly in the Iberian context, will be analysed in one of the dedicated panels of the conference.

The design of the European electricity market and the European model for containing electricity prices – key points of the change that is being operated in European terms – are two other major topics to focus on, with the aim of analysing the effective adaptability of the current market. to the present and the future.

The ambition that REPowerEU has brought requires more robust licensing entities, with the necessary means, but also more flexibility and less bureaucracy when licensing renewable projects. The revision of the “environmental simplex” will therefore be analysed in detail at the conference, which will also bring news about the onshore renewable project licensing guide, which APREN is developing.

Another challenge is the need to territorially densify the public service electric grid to receive all the new renewable power and for this reason the discussion on capacity and access to the grid and interconnections will not be clear.

The Portuguese energy matrix in the next decade will be the subject of analysis by some of the most relevant entities in the sector. The core technologies for meeting the decarbonization goals will be discussed and the central role of energy communities and individual and collective self-consumption will also be highlighted in the context of the transition to a greener, more democratic and safer energy model.

This year's conference will be attended by the Minister of Economy and the Sea, António Costa Silva, and the Secretary of State for the Environment and Energy, João Galamba, as well as several relevant European entities, such as WindEurope, SolarPower Europe, EREF or Hydrogen Europe, among others.

“We believe that this will be another opportunity to shed light on the topics of interest to the sector, similarly to what has already happened in previous editions, to signal constraints and help find answers to make renewable energy flow to accelerate the transition that we all aspire to. ”, anticipates the President of the Board of Directors of APREN, Pedro Amaral Jorge.

The conference also includes the awarding of the APREN 2022 Award, an initiative that aims to distinguish the best academic master's and doctoral dissertations related to electricity from renewable sources.