



## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Between the Minister of Environment and Climate Action of the Portuguese Republic and the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of the Netherlands**

**In the field of Energy – Hydrogen**

The Minister of Environment and Climate Action of the Portuguese Republic and the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of the Netherlands (hereinafter referred to as “Signatories”), affirm their intentions to connect Portugal's and the Netherlands's 2030 Hydrogen plans, especially on green hydrogen, in order to contribute to decarbonise the economy and to create a forward-looking European hydrogen infrastructure and market in the near future, in line with the EU climate goals.

***Therefore, the Ministers acknowledge:***

- The need to achieve the European Union (EU) 2030 climate and energy targets and draw the path towards carbon neutrality in Europe by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement and the National Energy and Climate Plans, as a sign of our commitment for the future of Europe and its citizens.
- The potential of hydrogen, namely green hydrogen produced from renewable sources, for the decarbonisation of hard-to-abate sectors, such as industry and transport, as well as its key role in the future European energy system based on sector coupling and the development of energy storage.
- The urgent need to scale up the production of hydrogen in the EU in a coordinated and timely way, to ensure thereby safe, competitive, available and sustainable energy supply, while enhancing international cooperation to create a global hydrogen market.

***The Ministers, express their intentions to:***

- Strengthen the ties of friendship and to enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two EU Member States, as well as the reciprocal interests in the field of energy, namely in the area of green hydrogen.
- Encourage the collaboration related to the anchor project of Sines and the activities in the Port of Rotterdam, promoted by a multisectoral international private agreement to develop a strategic export-import value chain to ensure production and transport of green hydrogen to the Netherlands and its hinterland.
- Acknowledges the cooperation efforts of Dutch and Portuguese companies to build an international consortium for the import of green hydrogen from Portugal to the Netherlands and its hinterland, via Rotterdam.
- Jointly explore the potential of a joint notification of Portugal and the Netherlands for the approval of the project by the European Commission under the EU state aid rules, more specifically its Communication on IPCEI (Important Projects of Common European Interest) and welcome other EU Member States to participate in this process.
- Inspire commercial demand for green hydrogen, promoting joint actions to reinforce the role of hydrogen within the EU, combining competitiveness and sustainability.
- Collaborate to remove regulatory barriers and to create harmonized standards for hydrogen at a European level.

- Promote involvement of other EU Member States and their respective industries to participate in the development of a strategic export-import value chain within the EU that companies from Portugal and the Netherlands aim to deploy.
- Develop a Working Group between the two countries (composed of representatives of both governments and companies involved in the development of the strategic hydrogen value chain to be identified after the signing of this Memorandum) with the possibility of integrating other Member States, who have the same aim to establish mechanisms and conditions for trade of green hydrogen, with the prior consent of the Signatories . Moreover, strive to develop common concepts that will further the cooperation and deployment of green hydrogen, contributing to the EU environmental and climate strategy.

***The Ministers express the recognition of:***

- The growing importance that renewable gases, in particular green hydrogen, will play as a cleaner, safer and more accessible energy source for the future of Europe.
- The willingness to promote an industrial policy that is based on public policies and strategies that can help mobilize and guide public and private investment in hydrogen projects, thus creating new opportunities for companies and for industry.
- The contribution of this bilateral cooperation to elevate hydrogen to the status of a European strategic priority, contributing to European security of supply, development of a resilient and robust hydrogen market and to the definition of standards that will allow the export and trade of green hydrogen.

### 1. Goal

The aim of this MoU is to promote and encourage joint institutional cooperation in the area of energy, particularly in the area of hydrogen.

### 2. Forms of cooperation

1. Cooperation within this MoU, within the scope of the powers and duties of the Signatories will focus on topics of common interest, such as:
  - (a) Explore the potential of a joint notification for approval by the European Commission of a hydrogen project as an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) under the European Union state aid rules, considering each country's potential interest and the interest of their respective industries within the entire hydrogen value chain.
  - (b) Interaction between the various public administration entities, responsible for the implementation of energy policy, for the exchange of knowledge and information on hydrogen.
  - (c) Promote research and development associated with the hydrogen value chain and promote

technical workshops on hydrogen complete value chain, between both countries, as well as other forms of technical assistance and training in the area of hydrogen production and transport.

- (d) Establish a Working Group to support the potential IPCEI notification and define mechanisms and conditions for the export of green hydrogen from Portugal by developing common concepts that will assure cooperation in the deployment of hydrogen, as well as to ensure the implementation of the operational aspects of this MoU;
- (e) Promote joint actions around the green hydrogen economy and contribute to reinforce the role of hydrogen within the European Union.

2. The cooperation that is part of this MoU will be subject to the availability of funds and human resources.

3. The financing arrangements will be decided separately in writing by the Signatories prior to the commencement of the activities that may be planned under this MoU.

### 3. Changes

This MoU may be amended at any time by joint decision of the Signatories, expressed in writing. Any change may come into effect on the date decided by the Signatories.

### 4. Consultations

At any time, the Signatories will consult, at the request of either of them, on any matter relating to the terms of this MoU, in the spirit of cooperation, good faith and mutual trust, to resolve quickly any difficulties or misunderstanding that may arise.

### 5. Effect of the MoU

- 1. This MoU will come into effect upon signature.
- 2. This MoU may be terminated by either Signatory giving six (1) months written notice to the other Signatory.
- 3. In the case of termination of the MoU, ongoing activities will take place in accordance with planning, unless otherwise decided by the Signatories.

The foregoing record represents the understandings reached between the Minister of Environment and Climate Action of the Portuguese Republic and the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of the Netherlands on matters referred to therein.

Signed at Lisbon and Haya on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020, in the English language

The Minister of Environment and Climate  
Action of the Portuguese Republic

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate  
Policy of the Netherlands

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