

Speakings for the roundtable with the industrial actors

**1. Introductory remarks by Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič (3')**

- **Thank** InnoEnergy for the introduction and the invitation to this roundtable.
- Express your appreciation and support for the **hard work and commitment** of the industrial actors towards **establishing a battery value chain in Portugal**, and integrating it more closely into the European battery ecosystem.
- Inform that the **Battery Alliance has seen significant progress since 2017**. The Alliance – which brings together over **600 members** – has already yielded **concrete results** across the entire battery value chain, including ca. 70 industrial battery projects announced across Europe, almost 30 announced battery cell factories (of which 14 are to be giga-factories) sufficient to largely satisfy the growing domestic demand for batteries – being driven by e-mobility - by 2025, record-high level of investment (€ 60 billion in 2019) outpacing even China (the EU as a “battery hotspot”), steep increase in sales of eVs in Europe reaching over 1 million cars in 2020 (10.5% market share; the trend has continued into 2021 reaching 14.9% in Q1).
- **Portugal is set to play a key role** in the strategic battery industry in the longer term, as a country with **enormous potential** and the **right ingredients** to build a sustainable globally competitive and ***vertically-integrated battery value chain***.
- The Portuguese battery industry – once fully established – would be **key to addressing the remaining challenges of the European ecosystem** (as identified at the Batteries Ministerial of 12 March), for example by:
  - developing a resilient raw materials segment, including sustainable **primary raw materials extraction** – lithium in particular – but also **refining** facilities – as well as **recycling**, which is critical for a secure supply of secondary raw materials,
  - producing more **sustainable battery cells** thanks to the abundance of clean energy and proximity of OEMs,
  - providing the **skilled workforce** needed across the entire battery value chain, and
  - carrying out top-notch **research and innovation** in Portugal’s institutes and research facilities, such as the International Nanotechnology Laboratory “INL” in Braga.
- Express your **great interest in common ambitions paper / Portuguese Industrial Battery Strategy** and **hearing what** the CEOs have to say, notably on (i) their specific commitments, (ii) important investment opportunities, (iii) the challenges they face, and (iv) expected support measures from the government and the Commission.

## 2. Remarks by Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič following the presentation (3')

- **Thank** for the impressive **common ambitions paper / Portuguese industrial battery strategy**, and stimulating and informative interventions.
- Inform that, as a follow-up to this dialogue, you would be ready **to discuss it with** the Ministers as well as the need for more **systemic government support** for industrial efforts, including:
  - preparation of a **national strategy** on the battery value chain (industrial actors, supported by the INL institute and Innoenergy, should take the lead on this process),
  - inclusion of the most promising **recovery battery/raw materials projects** in the **Recovery and Resilience Plan** (if the draft of 22 March is still to be amended), the **Territorial Just Transition Plans**, and **cohesion policy operational programmes**,
  - fostering **re/up-skilling** programmes for the batteries/raw materials emerging ecosystems, for example by engaging with **InnoEnergy/EBA250 Academy**, and
  - electrification of the **urban transport sector**, including by investments for fast **charging infrastructure** for heavy-duty vehicles, trucks and busses.
- Stress the necessity of overcoming the important challenge of **social acceptance**. Industry **must adhere to the highest European and international standards** and any activities related to raw materials – from exploration to post-mine closure – must be done in a **socially and environmentally sustainable** way, also by **engaging with local communities** openly and transparently.
- **Invite the industrial actors** to join a dedicated “**Roundtable on sustainable raw materials for the green and digital transition**” to be held before the summer [*date TBD*]. The meeting will serve as an opportunity to listen to and address the concerns of a broad spectrum of stakeholders, with an interest in sustainable raw materials extraction and processing in Europe in terms of social, environmental and economic performance. The Roundtable will also be an opportunity to present the recent work of the **Raw Materials Supply Group** on ‘EU principles for sustainable raw materials’.