The Portuguese Industry develops a vertically integrated battery value chain in Portugal to support the advancement of the European Battery Alliance

Intro

The High-Level industrial key stakeholders, representing the Portuguese battery value chain, hereby confirm their full commitment to the endeavours of European Battery Alliance. Portugal is well positioned to add value to the European battery ecosystem in all parts of the value chain, from raw materials to applications and recycling. The industry leaders commit to contribute to the creation of a sustainable and competitive European battery industry by acting fast and together on the following topics:

1. **The industry takes action and develops a National Battery Action Plan**

A national action plan, developed by industry will help to concert and concentrate efforts and accelerate time to concrete actions and implementation. Examples from other countries, showed that the EBA process, under the leadership of EIT Innoenergy, proved to be innovative, fast and helps to strengthen local ecosystems. With main industry players leading the work together with EBA250 we convinced to have a speedy deliverance and concrete actions in less than 6 month!

2. **Skills for the electrified society – invest in research, innovation and education**

The transformation to a fossil-free society with a focus on electrification will require a lot of highly skilled professionals and technicians and good support in establishment of the education and long-life training are key. The newly formed Battery Cluster led by INL is a good example to promote and coordinate research and innovation actions. To prioritize the re- and upskilling of the workforce should be highly prioritised and here, Portugal should take stock of the EBA250 Academy Initiative.

3. **Resilience and competitiveness of the upstream (raw materials; refining; active materials) and recycling segments of the value chain**

The future energy system will be mineral-intensive and Portugal is well positioned to ensure EU’s growing battery materials demand. The Portuguese mining industry puts environmental and social sustainability as its core and intends to contribute to the development of “EU principles for sustainable raw materials”. **Portugal commits to deliver raw materials to the European battery industry that are produced with the highest environmental and social standards and in line with future EU regulation on key sustainability pillars** such as low CO2 footprints, traceability and Due Diligence obligations. With the development of refining capacities Portugal can become a frontrunner in Europe’s supply chain for sustainable battery-grade material.

4. **Batteries to decarbonise the transport system- from charging infrastructure of heavy duty vehicles to leadership in batteries for the “last-mile logistics” and urban transportation**
Portugal has shown leadership in announcing to install 15,000 new recharging points until 2025 in its Recovery Plan. But more action is needed to decarbonise the heavy-duty vehicles segment, such as trucks and buses which are responsible for about a quarter of CO2 emissions from road transport. With investments in fast-charging infrastructure along its main transit routes Portugal could turn into a role model for decarbonising the heavy transport sector of Europe.

Electrification of urban transports is another low-hanging fruit. Portugal, the largest manufacturer of bicycles in Europe, will create a considerable number of direct jobs1, and boost Portugal’s export capacity if some of its production is transformed into e-bikes and other type of Light Electric Vehicles.

5. **Access to renewable and cost competitive energy**

Access to renewable and cost competitive energy is a key prerequisite to deploy high energy intensity battery projects whilst maintaining a low CO2 footprint of the end product. Logistics is also a driver of CO2 contribution. For this reason, the availability of a deep seaport in the close vicinity to battery industry locations and sustainable logistics from mine to conversion plant, preferably operated on low-cost renewable energy, is of high importance and will create a competitive advantage for establishments in Portugal.

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1 A plant producing 20,000 LEV/year such as www.scoobic.com implies 350 direct jobs. 1M LEV would mean 17,500 direct jobs.