

## The Focus-Abengoa Foundation opens the Energy Transition and Climate Change School

- Lord Nicholas Stern, author of the “Stern Review”, gave the opening lecture.
- The School will take place on 27 and 28 May at the Hospital de los Venerables in Seville, the Foundation’s headquarters. Entry is free while places are available.

Seville, 26 May 2014.- The Focus-Abengoa Foundation today opened the Energy Transition and Climate Change School. The opening session was officiated by Josep Borrell Fontelles, Vice-president of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, Director of the Energy Transition and Climate Change Forum and Chairman of Abengoa’s International Advisory Board; José Domínguez Abascal, Technical General Secretary of Abengoa; and Lord Nicholas Stern, Chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, a former Chief Economist of the World Bank and author of the “Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change”, who gave the opening lecture entitled, “The future of action on climate change: An opportunity for sustained growth”.

The opening ceremony was also attended by José B. Terceiro, Vice-chairman of Abengoa and President of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation; Anabel Morillo León, Director General of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation; as well as numerous members of the Board of Trustees of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation and members of Abengoa’s Board of Directors and International Advisory Board.

During his talk, the author of the “Stern Review” outlined the conclusions of the document he published six years ago. Lord Stern admitted that he had underestimated the risks of climate change, saying “Emissions are at the limit or above the forecasts that were made, and some forecasts have even occurred earlier than expected, such as artic melting or ocean acidification. Indeed, CO<sub>2</sub> levels have risen from 280 parts per million (ppm) in 1800 to 400 ppm today, while there has been a 5°C rise in temperatures that has not been seen in 30 million years”.

That is why the renowned economist has issued a call for action in every region of the world and in every economic sector. “If a robust, clean and credible policy is established, it is possible to make the transition to a sustainable, low carbon economy that will give rise to a dynamic period, full of innovation, investment, creativity, opportunities and growth”.

Josep Borrell, Director of the Energy Transition and Climate Change Forum, highlighted the importance of publicising and raising awareness in society of the need to transform the current energy sector into a low-carbon system. Prof. Borrell presented the initiative launched by the Forum of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation, as well as its main tool, the website [www.transicionenergetica.org](http://www.transicionenergetica.org), issuing an open invitation to attend the School.”

The School is part of the Forum of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation. Its objective is to publicise and debate the energy transition process in Europe. The economic crisis has currently overtaken climate change on the political agenda, even though the latest IPCC report continues to warn about its seriousness. Renewable energy policies, the controversy surrounding shale gas, regulation of the Spanish electricity market and the impact of the crisis in Ukraine on Europe’s energy situation are just some of the issues that will be examined during this course.

During the School, participants will have the opportunity to discuss the energy transition process in the context of climate change with experts such as Mario Ragwitz, Director of the Renewable Energy Business Unit of the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI; Doctor Lauren Toubiana, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) in France; Teresa Ribera, former Secretary of State for Climate Change; Jacques Le Cacheux, a lecturer in economics at the Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour and Director of the Department of Economic Research at OFCE; and Jorge Fabra, President of Economists Against the Crisis and a former manager of Red Eléctrica de España, among other speakers.

Entry to the lectures of the Energy Transition and Climate Change School is free while spaces are available. Furthermore, the talks will be rebroadcast live via the web streaming service of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation’s website.

### **Tuesday 27 May:**

- *Prospects of the Energy Transition in Europe.* (Dr. Mario Ragwitz, Director of the Renewable Energy Business Unit of the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI; Doctor Lauren Toubiana, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) in France; Teresa Ribera, former Secretary of State for Climate Change).
- *Instruments (taxation and carbon markets) and macroeconomic impact of the fight against climate change.* (Dr. Jacques Le Cacheux, lecturer in economics at the Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour and Director of the Department of Economic Research at OFCE).

- Regulation of the Spanish Electricity Sector. (Dr. Jorge Fabra, President of Economists Against the Crisis and former manager of Red Eléctrica de España).

**Wednesday 28 May:**

- *European perspective of the new Climate Change and Energy Package for 2030.* (Antonio Soria, head of the ITPS Climate, Energy and Transport Unit of Seville).
- *Seven years of European energy and climate policy: The age of reason or divorce?* Prof. Jean Michel Glachant, Director of the Florence School of Regulation of the European University Institute (Italy).
- *Energy consumption, renewable energy use and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the building sector.* (Prof. Servando Álvarez, professor of the Department of Energy Engineering, Higher School of Engineering of the University of Seville).

**Focus-Abengoa Foundation**

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation was created in 1982 as a result of the cultural work begun in 1972 by Abengoa with the publication of the works *Temas Sevillanos* (Themes of Seville) and *Iconografía de Sevilla* (Iconography of Seville). A collection of documents, books and engravings on the Kingdom of Seville and by Sevillian authors was created during the same period. This initial cultural work showed Abengoa's directors the importance of the company's involvement in activities that directly benefit society, beyond the firm's core technology work, which led to the creation of the Seville Cultural Fund Foundation. The Hospital de los Venerables, a 17th century monument and the headquarters of the Focus-Abengoa Foundation in Seville, has housed the Diego Velázquez Research Centre, a leading institution for studying and disseminating the Baroque era and the Sevillian period of this universally renowned artist, since the acquisition of Velázquez's Santa Rufina by the Foundation in 2007. The focus on this crucial era of the Golden Age is complemented with the legacy from Professor Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez, bequeathed to the Foundation in 2011. It comprises his library, photo library, personal archive and art collection and is being catalogued to help create a library specialising in the art and culture of the Baroque period. <http://focus.abengoa.es/>

**For more information:****Abengoa Communication Department**



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