



The Focus-Abengoa Foundation presents the first seminar of the “Road to Paris 2015” series as part of the Energy Transition and Climate Change Forum

14 November 2014.- The Focus-Abengoa Foundation today held the first seminar entitled “Road to Paris 2015: How to define the goal of climate change action”, as part of a series that will take place within the framework of the Energy Transition and Climate Change Forum. The purpose of these seminars is to promote discussion about the state of international climate change negotiations and the prospects for an international agreement in Paris in 2015.

This initial seminar included talks from Josep Borrell Fontelles, director of the Energy Transition and Climate Change Forum and holder of the Jean Monnet chair at the ICEI international studies institute; Teresa Ribera, director of IDDRI, the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations, who summarised the conclusions about the recent climate summit, and Michel Colombier, scientific director of IDDRI, who spoke on the theme of “Paris 2015: a framework for climate aspirations”. The first seminar of the Energy Transition and Climate Change Forum was brought to an end with a talk by Mónica Araya, director of Nivela and Costa Rica Limpia, entitled “Europe and Latin America, key players for COP21”.

This is the first event that the Energy Transition and Climate Change Forum has organised in Madrid, and is the first seminar in a regular series that will take place over the course of the year.

Josep Borrell Fontelles emphasised, “The great opportunity to reach an international climate agreement in Paris 2015 to stop the planet’s temperature from rising by 2°C, with the risks that this would entail, according to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)”.

During her speech, Teresa Ribera explained that, “What is needed is a total change in the dynamic, since the objective is not a specific figure or date, but the complete decarbonisation of the economy in the medium term”.

For his part, Michel Colombier, highlighted the factors that are limiting the ambitions of different countries to achieve a significant international climate agreement and talked about the negotiating scenario for Paris 2015 which is so different compared to previous summits.

Lastly, Mónica Araya, brought this initial seminar to a close by saying that “we must maximise the evidence of how climate-based actions benefit the economy and therefore



strengthen the alliance between Europe and Latin America as key players for a climate agreement in 2015”.

The Focus-Abengoa Forum on Energy and Climate Change aims to promote through public discussions, a genuine open platform for the research, presentation and debate of ideas and results through actions that it believes are relevant at any given time, based on the characteristics of the issues to be analysed.

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.

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