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Diana Riba: The Iberian Blackout Shows Why Europe Must Reform Its Energy Model

EFA Group President Diana Riba, addressed the plenary in Strasbourg to debate the blackout the Iberian Peninsula suffered last week, an incident that exposed critical weaknesses in Europe's energy systems and policy priorities.

The recent power outage affecting large parts of the Iberian Peninsula has prompted calls in the European Parliament for greater investment in resilient, public-centred energy infrastructure.

"This blackout has taught us three essential lessons,"
"Firstly, our daily lives are entirely dependent on electricity. Without it, we lose communication, transport, safety systems, and even basic retail functions."

The Catalan MEP stressed that this level of vulnerability requires a radical improvement in infrastructure. She called for the development of decentralised, smart energy networks and reminded the chamber that key EU directives, such as the one on critical infrastructure, still haven't been implemented in some member states, including Spain. The blackout led to widespread disruption of transport, public services, and communication across Spain and Portugal. According to MEP Riba, the event also raises broader questions about the ownership and governance of key services.

"Secondly, essential services like electricity must be largely public," she said.
"Public control is key to ensuring energy remains a right and not simply a source of high private profits. We need investment in energy storage, smart grids and interconnections, all of which are vital for secure, fair and sustainable supply, and often neglected by private markets due to short-term profitability concerns."

Diana Riba i Giner, EFA Group President, also addressed the debate on Europe's energy direction, cautioning against proposals to revive nuclear strategies at the expense of renewable technologies.Riba stressed that this level of vulnerability requires a radical improvement in infrastructure.

“To those who attack renewables and call for a return to nuclear energy, we say this: renewables are the only future,” she added.
“Europe lacks gas and uranium, but we have sun, wind, water and biomass. Committing to clean energy frees us from external dependency and helps secure a healthier planet for the next generation. While some continue to look to the past, we are focused on building the future.” She concluded

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Diana Riba i Giner

EFA President and first Vice President of the Greens/EFA Group

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