

## **APREN and AP2H2 promoted party debate dedicated to the Energy Transition**

*Duarte Alves (CDU), João Galamba (PS), Jorge Costa (BE) and Salvador Malheiro (PSD) accepted the invitation of the two associations and defended the positions of their parties with regard to the Energy Transition, in preview of the legislative elections on January 30.*

[APREN – Renewable Energy Association](#), in collaboration with [AP2H2 - Portuguese Association for the Promotion of Hydrogen](#), invited all political forces to an [online debate](#) on the theme of the Energy Transition, which took place on the afternoon of Thursday, January 20.

Four political forces have accepted the challenge and, from the discussion among those present, it was perceived that it is more what unites than what separates them. The debate had the moderation of Miguel Prado, journalist of the newspaper “Expresso”.

PS, represented by **João Galamba**, currently Deputy Secretary of State and Energy, defended the need to accelerate the installed capacity of renewables, especially solar, onshore and offshore wind, replacing the natural gas. “Offshore wind seems to be an area of great potential. There is something that solar does not have and that hydrogen also brings: a huge industrial development associated”, he stressed.

Much of the investment is already profitable and does not require public support, which can be allocated to other matters, such as renewable gases. “A large or medium company does not need support to install photovoltaic panels. They are paid in three or four years or even in less time, considering the electricity prices we have on the market today”, he assures.

The focus should therefore be on the energy efficiency of buildings and production processes. “This is an area with a longer payback, which would not always be strengthened if there were no public support”, he emphasizes.

On behalf of the PSD, **Salvador Malheiro**, current mayor of Ovar, agrees. “There's no kilowatt cheaper than the one we can avoid”, he states. That is why PSD has already proposed to bet on energy efficiency with the support of European funds.

CDU also advocates the focus on energy efficiency, with state support, in particular to protect the weakest consumers. **Duarte Alves**, CDU Deputy, reminds us that this is one of the main vectors on the road to the energy transition. “Being an investment with longer-term return, it requires more determined public investment”, he defends.

For CDU, this energy transition must ensure security of supply while providing lower energy prices for companies so that they “do not touch wages on the grounds that they need to be more competitive”.

To help solve the price problem, particularly among the most disadvantaged population, Bloco de Esquerda suggests the installation of Community self-consumption systems in state buildings, following the logic of energy service companies. “This model can be applied by the State itself with profitability rates relevant from the point of view of public revenue”, highlighted the Deputy **Jorge Costa**.

Another idea of Bloco de Esquerda is to take advantage of public buildings to install photovoltaic systems. This would be another way to achieve the decentralized production levels provided for in the National Energy and Climate Plan (PNEC).

But there is more to do: for PSD it is also urgent to *debureaucratize*. "Energy transition should be accompanied by digital transition and administrative efficiency, in particular in institutions that are relevant in this area, such as DGEG. We have enormous difficulties in terms of human resources, but also in terms of procedures", regrets Salvador Malheiro. PSD proposes a "single licensing portal" to streamline processes that can take advantage of artificial intelligence.

Everyone agrees that the energy transition is an opportunity to recover the economy with socio-environmental advantages. It is also, above all - and without this it would hardly succeed - "a huge opportunity for economic, industrial and technological development for our country", stressed João Galamba.

The debate ended with the theme of nuclear energy on the table. This is an option that the European Union has brought to the public as a possible clean option to catapult the energy transition. Also, here the opinion is unanimous among the four parties represented. Nuclear? No thanks!

**Follow APREN:**



**Contacts:**

Diogo Carvalheda | [diogo.carvalheda@apren.pt](mailto:diogo.carvalheda@apren.pt) | +351 918 775 963

**About APREN**

The [Portuguese Renewable Energy Association \(APREN\)](#) is a non-profit association, established in October 1988, with the mission of coordinating and representing the common interests of its Members in the promotion of Renewable Energies in the electricity sector.

APREN develops work together with official bodies and other similar entities, at national and international level, assuming itself as an instrument for participation in energy and environmental policies through the use and valorization of natural resources for electricity production, namely in the fields of water, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, biogas and urban solid waste.