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Preface I

Ensuring an electrical supply that is sufficient, efficient, sustainable and respectful of the environment is today, not just one of the most important strategic interests of any nation, but it is also a strategic requirement for the security of any country. The well-being and progress of the citizens depends on energy availability. This means that it has become an interest that fully falls within the category of what is crucial for nations.

In Spain, its heavy dependency on resources from overseas makes our country one of the most vulnerable ones. For this reason, the geopolitical and geostrategic elements of the international energy panorama take on great significance in Spanish strategic thinking.

By virtue of what has been stated, when Arturo Gonzalo Aizpiri proposed to the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies (SISS) the form this publication should take, this seemed to be an excellent idea to us. So we were able to meet a team of experts led by Claudio Aranzadi who, from his experience as the minister responsible for the sector, has coordinated and provided coherence to the project.

The SISS is pleased to submit this publication, carried out with the assistance of the Spanish Committee of the World Energy Council and Enerclub. This seeks to offer a reflection on the geostrategic energy panorama, both to the experts of the different energy-related sectors, and to Spanish society as a whole. This provides a mixed view, in which contri-

butions of the academic, business and military worlds are combined. In this way, it thus provides for the cross-sectional nature of the interest and concern about the energy aspects it gives rise to.

This publication would not have been possible without the assistance provided by REPSOL, CEPESA and ENAGAS. All of these companies are of recognised standing, not only of a strategic nature for our country. The publication does not seek to be an end in itself or a finished project. The SISS considers that it is hugely important to do an ongoing analysis of the geopolitical aspects of energy and its bearing on security, in the broadest sense of the term, in a sector that is subject to constant changes in an unprecedented period of uncertainty.

Lastly, I would like to thank Arturo Gonzalo Aizpiri for this superb initiative. The reflection of this in this publication has been possible thanks to the excellent work of Marta Camacho and the authors, of course. I trust this publication will be of interest to the reader.