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Preface II

When we invited General Miguel Ángel Ballesteros to take part in the annual event of the Spanish Committee of the World Energy Council, WEC Spain, in 2011, the interest awakened amongst the audience, when speaking about international conflicts and the geostrategic panorama, led us to realise the broad range of cooperation that could be developed between our institutions. Listening, sharing other viewpoints and other topics, hugely enriches any field of activity. How is this not going to be done nowadays for two related fields such as energy and geostrategy?

We find ourselves at an exciting time in the energy sector. The challenges that are placed on us by an increasingly demanding society, in its consumption parameters, and that is growing exponentially in its global middle class, are hugely testing. The emergence of this extensive middle class with legitimate aspirations of well-being, contributes in a decisive way to energy demand growing in a very intense way, with a 33% increase in the 2035 horizon, according to the International Energy Agency. Of this total increase, 93% corresponds to non-OECD countries. At its last three-yearly congress at Deagu in 2013, the World Energy Council concluded that the increase in energy demand in the coming years could not be exclusively met by low-carbon energy sources. All sources of energy will be needed to meet the rapid increase in global energy demand.

The appearance of unconventional sources in the energy panorama in non-OPEC countries such as the United States or relevant players coming into play, as is the case of China or other non-OECD countries means that the geostrategic scenario, including international relations, is being redrawn and new trading relations and new strategic alliances are being created.

As we will see, the change in the energy world in itself is the context that we are working in and we have to know how to adapt ourselves to our society's requirements within this new framework. Additionally, we should not overlook the fact that we find ourselves in a panorama that should move in a three-axis graph, that of security of supply, that of responsible and fair supply and that of an increasingly environmental demanding context.

For all of these reasons, publications such as this one, become excellent frames of reference for understanding the impact that energy has on geostrategy and geostrategy on energy by means of analysing the most relevant topics of the time. This is also useful to us as a knowledge tool, so as to be able to respond to the current and future challenges in advance, as companies and as global players.

We would not like to let the opportunity pass without thanking General Ballesteros and his team for their marvellous willingness and enthusiasm with which they took on this partnership project. In the same way, I would like to thank Claudio Aranzadi for having contributed his experience to the work of coordinating this chapter.

I also thank Cepsa, Enagás and Repsol, member companies of the WEC Spain, for their financial assistance, without which we would not have been able to successfully complete this edition.

Last, but not least, I would like to mention the work of the Secretary General of WEC Spain, Marta Camacho who, with her tenacious endeavour, has contributed to the success of this project.