



Minister Reyes Maroto visits Cepsa's industrial complex in Palos de la Frontera

- **The Minister of Industry visited Cepsa's facilities in the province of Huelva to learn about the company's advances in innovation and development to make its business more sustainable**

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Reyes Maroto, visited today Cepsa's industrial facilities in Palos de la Frontera (Huelva) alongside the company's CEO, Maarten Wetselaar, and other members of its management team. Also joining the visit were officials including the Government Delegate in Andalusia, Pedro Fernández; the Vice-Minister for Economic Transformation, Industry, Knowledge and Universities, Lorena Garcia de Izarra; Delegate of the Andalusian Regional Government in Huelva, Bella Verano; President of the Huelva Provincial Council, María Eugenia Limón; Subdelegate of the Government, Manuela Parralo; and Huelva Mayor, Gabriel Cruz; Palos Mayor, Carmelo Romero and Moguer Mayor, Gustavo Cuéllar.

At the meeting, the directors of the energy and chemical company showcased the progress made in innovation and development at the industrial park, where the La Rábida Refinery and the Palos Chemical Plant are located, highlighting its commitment to safety, sustainability, decarbonization and Industry 4.0.

During the visit, Cepsa informed the Minister that it would soon present a new strategic plan that involves green transformation, and in which its industrial centers in Andalusia (Energy Parks) will serve as the backbone of the company's future by producing new renewable energies such as green hydrogen and second-generation biofuels. In this way, Cepsa will not only contribute to the decarbonization of its activity, but also accelerate the decarbonization of adjacent industries and other business sectors, such as aviation, transportation, tourism and agriculture.

Furthermore, its chemical plants will continue to pursue the development and production of chemical products from renewable and recycled raw materials. Cepsa Química currently produces renewable LAB (linear alkylbenzene) and is a pioneer in the manufacture of phenol from renewable and recycled raw materials, a result of its commitment to sustainable development and ability to adapt to the environmental targets of its customers.

During her visit, Minister Reyes Maroto highlighted: "Industry must play a fundamental role in the economic recovery and the government is working to strengthen our strategic autonomy and to adapt our industry to the dual green and digital transition. Companies like Cepsa are committed to climate change and are leading decarbonization projects that will be an important driver for SMEs such as this Energy Park, which will become a green hub for the development of second-generation biofuels and green hydrogen, in line with the government's agenda."

For his part, Maarten Wetselaar, Cepsa's CEO, said: "I would like to thank the Minister for visiting our facilities in Palos de la Frontera and for her support for Andalusian industry. We want to continue to promote social and economic development and to



ensure Europe's energy independence, which is especially important at this time. At Cepsa, we are committed to industrial development based on the circular economy, renewable energies and digitalization, in line with European and Spanish policies and objectives in terms of sustainability.”

According to the various representatives who participated in the meeting, industry is set to play a key role in the future of Europe and its recovery, and this represents an opportunity for Spain in terms of quality employment, competitiveness, generation of opportunities and new value chains with high added value.

In addition to the industrial facilities, Minister Maroto had the opportunity to visit La Laguna Primera de Palos, a pioneering project in Spain for its recovery of a natural area. Cepsa and the Andalusian Regional Government have promoted since 2001 the ecological restoration and landscape rehabilitation of this important refuge, which is visited by more than 150 species of birds per year, including 61 endangered species. Located next to the company's facilities in Palos de la Frontera, this wetland exemplifies the sustainable balance between industrial development, together with other economic sectors, and nature conservation. It has therefore been recognized as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar), a Natural Site and a Site of Community Importance (Red Natura 2000).

Cepsa in Andalusia

Operating in Andalusia for more than 50 years, Cepsa is a benchmark company in the region's economic and industrial fabric, leading the ranking of Andalusian companies in turnover and exports. The company's industrial centers in the region directly employ close to 3,000 people and indirectly some 5,000. In addition to its industrial facilities, which are European benchmarks, the company also has more than 260 service stations in Andalusia, supplies marine fuels in the main ports and has its first wind farm in the region.

Cepsa is a global energy and chemical company operating at every stage of the oil and gas value chain. Cepsa also manufactures products from plant-based raw materials and operates in the renewable energy sector. Cepsa has 90 years of experience and a team of around 10,000 employees, who combine technical excellence with adaptability. Cepsa operates on five continents.

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