

Energy transition: Lessons from COVID 19

Christian Alexis López Solano¹³

Abstract

It's usual these days to listen everyone talking about COVID19; the news are always showing us lots of people who die due to this pandemic. But we also must take into account the deep reflections that this global situation can give us.

Human being only takes right decisions when is able to understand the seriousness of one situation. Frequently when this threatens his life. Global warming is much more serious than COVID19, so, it's important that nations make an effort to counter its harmful effects. That's the importance of legal decisions about energy transition.

Keyword:

¹³ State Contracting Specialista. LLM (c) in Public Law with emphasis in Mining, Energy and Petroleum Regulation. Consulting and Litigant attorney. christian.lopez.solano@gmail.com

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Methodology

This article is about a personal reflection which has to do with impossible control situations like COVID19 pandemic. This global issue has shown us that human control is limited by some situations provided by nature, or sometimes, due to ourselves as specie.

This article pretends to bring up some international recommendations and also try to make readers realize some future consequences if humanity don't change their environmental behaviour. So, it's a reflection work that doesn't have to do with any academic investigation.

Reflection

While we're at home it's possible to reflect about how fragile life is. So, it was necessary a pandemic that threatens our life for understanding that there are forces greater than human, so, we have to become aware of this. If we don't, it'll be possible that in near future we achieve the human extinction.

At present there is a global health emergency, all nations are trying to save its citizens from

the COVID 19 pandemic. It's like a sign that show us that in the past we did things wrong, for example, it's enough to talk about individuality and disorganization behaviours that dominated all the social dynamics, in the whole human stages.

There were some news on December, last year, about the possibility of a global emergency due to a pandemic. No one decided to believe in this, and now, it's possible to see the consequences. Something similar happens with the global warming.

The Energy Transition Commission (ETC) has pointed out the importance of changing the investing methodology in global economy. They've said: (Energy Transitions Commission, 2020):

We should learn the lessons from the COVID-19 crisis, which has dramatically demonstrated the unpreparedness of the global economy to systemic risks, despite early warning from scientists. In 2019, climate change was linked to at least 15 extreme weather events costing between US\$1-10 billion each. The IPCC predicts that such extreme weather events will likely become more frequent with the rise in global temperatures. Investing in high-carbon activities without climate conditionality in the hope that it will help the global economic recovery would only prepare the ground for future systemic crises. Economic stimulus packages should

contribute to building a healthier, more resilient, net-zero-emissions economy. (underlined outside the text).

So, one of the most important lessons from COVID19 is about the fragility of our global economy; it's shown us that any systemic risk can hack the economy's stability. Greenhouse gases emissions contributes to build dangerous and irreversible systemic risks, for example: i) the poles melting, ii) Drought, iii) Poverty, etc.

Thereby, the omission in our duty of reducing and combating global warming, will have worst consequences for the economy and human life than the COVID19 pandemic. Our global energy matrix has to change, governments have to invest in new technologies that contribute to a "healthier, more resilient, net-zero-emissions economy". In the future the energy consume will increase, and that's a good reason to start thinking about renewing the matrix, the Energy Transition Commission made a recommendation in this regard:

Investment in clean power systems constitutes the single biggest investment opportunity of the next decade. A massive wave of investments in renewable electricity generation, flexibility provision and power grids are indispensable to both decarbonise existing power provision and meet growing electricity demand from rapid electrification of buildings, transport and industry.

The ETC forecasts a multiplication by 4 to 5 of electricity demand globally by 2050. This would require a multiplication by 10 of the paces of renewable deployment (from 160GW of new wind and solar capacity installed in 2019 to 1500GW per year on average over the next 30 years), along with substantial investment in grid infrastructure¹⁴ (underlined outside the text).

Those forecasts show us that global electricity demand will increase, if humanity continues depending on fossil fuels the greenhouse gases concentration will increase too. National systems and economies are not prepared for that situation because of on that stage all the problems accumulate.

Europe and all its countries are trying to be leaders in renewable energy systems,

According to Article 194(1) of the treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (hereunder TFEU) the promotion of renewable energies is one of the objectives of the European Union energy policy. In this regard, the Energy Union Package – drafted by the European Commission in 2015- not only reiterates this objective but also states that '(t)he European

¹⁴ *Ibíd.*

Union is committed to becoming the world leader in renewable energy’.

The key legal instrument for the promotion of renewable energy is Directive 2009/28/EC. This Directive sets individual targets of renewable energy production Member States in order to reach the common EU target of 20% gross production from renewable energies by 2020. Besides, Article 3 Directive 2009/28/EC permits EU members to adopt renewable energy support schemes and, moreover, Recital 25 provides that “it is vital that Member States can control the effect and costs of their national support schemes according to their different potentials (Rodríguez, 2017) (underlined outside the text).

According to the Directive 2009/28/EC we can see that European Union is aware about importance of adopting new energy support schemes. All the countries that comprise it have to adopt new legal regulations aimed at mitigating of global pollution product of CO².

Colombian energy policy has to take into account lots of costs that can be produced in a matrix change process. Some of the objectives in our energy transition programs are: “i) Strengthen the resilience; ii) Increase complementarity ; iii) Enhance energy security; iv) reduce emissions and; v) Promote competition and improve efficiency in price formation” (Puyo, 2020). This situation requires immediate actions on budget because of the only way

to get an efficient process is by investing in new renewable matrix components.

We have a lesson from COVID19 crisis; when nations don't take urgent decisions in short time the consequences can be unimaginable and irresistible. We have the key to guarantee energy stability, we challenge as a nation, we must implement strong efforts on budget, we have to contribute to energy transition processes. If we don't, we'll be preparing a devastating terrain for our future generations. The moment is now.

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