



TRANSCRIPCIÓN

INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ, JUNTO AL PRIMER MINISTRO DE BÉLGICA, ALEXANDER DE CROO, EN LA SEDE DE IMEC

Lovaina, 18 de octubre de 2024

INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ

Thank you very much.

Thanks, Alexander, my friend, dear Prime Minister. And of course, Luc, IMEC's CEO.

Thank you. Thank you very much for this warm welcome.

I think it is a great pleasure to visit one of the world's leading research centres in nano electronics, an authentic European hub of technology transfer and innovation.

And after visiting this facility and its impressive cleanroom, there is no doubt of the potential of the similar infrastructure in my country, in Spain.

So I make the future project in Malaga as an example, as the Prime Minister De Croo has said, of cooperation between Spain and Belgium in the field of research and development.

This is a truly European project in one of the most strategic sectors.

And I want to thank the Prime Minister of Belgium, my friend Alexander, for believing in this collaboration from the start and helping to make it happen. Thank you very much.

Europe's semiconductor fabric will only be competitive, building on cooperation in research and development.

IMEC's operation of a research infrastructure in Málaga, in the south of Spain, will make possible harness the competitive strength of the Spanish science systems in areas such as photonics and 5G technology, combined with IMEC's knowledge and experience in new processes and materials.

Malaga research infrastructure is a huge step for Spain and we are very excited, Luc. Our semiconductor ecosystem will be placed at the next level.

Entrepreneurial fabric will benefit from the possibility to transfer the ideas conceived in the laboratory to the manufacturing stage researching an appropriate level of scale.

It will also prove the capacity of IMEC to export its successful public private partnership business model internationally.

So, dear Luc, I am pleased also to announce that since our recent meeting in Madrid, we have moved forward to make IMEC a long term partner for our science system. The first €100 million to finance the initial design and implementation of the research facility in Málaga have already been allocated and in the next few weeks the agreement



for the transfer of the land between the Regional Government of Andalusia and the said public state enterprise will be signed.

So I would like to highlight two relevant contributions of this project to the Spanish digital and technology policy strategy.

The first one, it represents an important milestone to advance open strategic autonomy for Spain and for Europe.

Semiconductors are key for a significant range of industrial value chains with a robust presence in my country, in Spain.

Like you mentioned before, automotive sector devices essential for the ecological transition.

Spain is committed to the development of the microelectronics, industrial and knowledge ecosystem through our specialised programme Pertechip financed with the EU next generation funds.

And the second thing is that it demonstrates the firm commitment of the Spanish government to research and development as the engine of economic growth and competitiveness.

The Spanish government has increased the I+D investment funding to the highest level in our history.

Public research institutions have increased from an annual average of €1 billion to funding between 2012 and 2017, to close to €2 billion between 2021 and 2023.

So competitive funding for research, development and innovation has increased 73% in the last three years.

So I would like to conclude, pointing out, that I make this tangible proof of what can be achieved through public and private cooperation and collaboration with an European spirit, and with the will and agreement between public administrations at all levels, state, regional and local, to make ambitious projects a reality.

So thank you very much and we are very excited with this project.

*(Transcripción editada por la Secretaría de Estado de Comunicación)
(Intervención original en inglés)*