

Spain wants to ban sale of petrol and diesel cars from 2040 (Update)

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Spain said Tuesday it wants to outlaw the sale of new diesel and petrol cars from 2040, the latest European country to target polluting vehicles to try to cut emissions.

Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's government included the proposal in a draft document for an energy transition law which also calls for Spain to completely decarbonise its economy by 2050.

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Sanchez's government lacks a majority in parliament and it will need to gain the support of other parties to approve the law.

The plan calls for setting up charging points for electric vehicles while cities with over 50,000 inhabitants will have to set up "low emission zones" before 2021, like those that already exist in the centre of Madrid and Barcelona where traffic is restricted.

"By 2050, the electricity system will have to rely exclusively on renewable energy sources," the document said.

Under the plan new licences for hydrocarbon exploration and fracking will be banned and subsidies that "favour the consumption of fossil fuels" will end.

Sanchez warned Sunday that climate change was "the biggest challenge we face globally", adding it was necessary to "act with urgency and determination" before this "great silence war".

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