

Joint statement

26th SPAIN-PORTUGAL SUMMIT

Moncloa Palace, 13 May 2013

The 26th Spain-Portugal Summit has been held in Madrid and presided over by the President of the Government of Spain, Mariano Rajoy Brey, and the Prime Minister of Portugal, Pedro Passos Coelho. This Summit has once again clearly demonstrated the excellent relations between Portugal and Spain, with debates on the most important areas of our bilateral relations.

The most relevant issues on the European and international agenda were debated during the Summit, and showed a clear convergence of points of view and the advantages of concerted action.

Spain and Portugal share a vision of the European Union as a community of destiny and as a political project based on peace, democracy and the promotion of fundamental values and human rights. They reassert the conviction that the crisis will be overcome by building a stronger, more united, more competitive Europe with greater solidarity.

In this context, the Heads of Government reiterated their commitment to the stability of the economy and the single currency, which requires Member States to continue with their efforts at reform and adjustments, as well as through the decisive action of the European Union as a whole. In this respect, the Heads of Government called for decisive progress on banking union in the coming months to fulfil the commitments made at the European Council and to build a true economic and monetary union, thus helping to avoid the market fragmentation that prevents equal financing conditions for companies throughout the EU.

Similarly, they called on the European Union, in the coming months, and together with reforms at a national level, to take as many measures as are necessary to foster growth and competition, thereby acting as a catalyst to ensure the positive impact of reforms and adjustments being made by Member States. In this context, it is imperative to create conditions to ensure investment in the economy, particularly to support small- and medium-sized enterprises, as well as micro-enterprises, through the European Investment Bank, among other institutions, and by means of as many instruments as exist to that end.

The importance of the agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework reached at the last European Council in February was reaffirmed, and the swift conclusion of the work of the European Parliament and Council for its implementation. The two governments highlighted the importance of the Cohesion Policy as the backbone of social and economic development in the EU, and as a catalyst for growth in Europe. They thus consider it is necessary to guarantee that the Cohesion Policy complements other EU policies to ensure the maximum impact of EU investments within the framework of strict budgetary

discipline that exists in Europe.

The future of the economies of the two countries and of the European Union as a whole must be based on a model of strong, diversified and sustainable growth that serves to generate employment, human capital, investment and innovation. To that end, we must act at both a national and European level in all areas to drive a policy of competitiveness, fostering a pro-competition regulatory framework and adopting structural reforms that strengthen and make our productive fabric more flexible, as well as laying the foundations for removing our main macro-economic imbalances.

The two governments reiterate their commitment to firmly placing the fight against unemployment at the heart of their policies, principally against youth unemployment. In this respect, they undertake to intensify the exchange of experiences and good practices on matters of active employment policies.

The two governments undertake to encourage youth business initiatives to help drive the growth of sustainable enterprises, including cooperatives, social enterprises and self-employment.

The two governments express their satisfaction at having signed a memorandum of cooperation and technical assistance on matters of social policy and social security as a sign of the intention of both countries to enhance cooperation on social security and social protection.

Taking into account the challenges faced by the fight against inequality, poverty and social exclusion in both Portuguese and Spanish society during this time of economic and financial crisis, the two countries agreed to enhance cooperation through the exchange of joint activities and initiatives in the area of social security and social protection, policies aimed at the family, the promotion of the social economy, as well as in areas such as the fight against fraud, and strengthening the supervision and control of subsidies with the aim of better protecting citizens.

Portugal and Spain reaffirm their commitment to the fight against fraud and tax evasion, a priority area in the tax policy of both countries. In this respect, the two States will sign a protocol today aimed at significantly strengthening cooperation in the field of the prevention and fight against fraud and tax evasion. This protocol takes on special importance in the current context of the two States within the European framework.

The protocol signed today helps strengthen the mechanisms available to each country to more effectively fight against fraud and tax evasion, particularly through updating the two bilateral agreements on matters of mutual administrative assistance, establishing regular consultations between the two governments aimed at exchanging information and experiences on fiscal matters, adopting common policies in matters of the fight against tax fraud within a European and international framework, and finally, in exchanging aid and advice in the process of implementing the pilot project for the automatic exchange of information on tax matters at an EU level.

On matters of air transport, Spain and Portugal highlight the progress made on reaching an Agreement for the Constitution of the South-West Functional Airspace Block between the two countries. Within the framework of the Single European Sky initiative, they have reaffirmed their mutual commitment, by means of a political declaration, to the start-up of the same as soon as possible.

As regards land transport, the two countries welcome the progress made on the interoperability of the electronic collection systems on the toll motorways between Spain and Portugal that further promote passenger movement between the two countries and highlight the agreements reached regarding the Mixed Technical Committee on Bridges for the management and maintenance of the latest bridges put in service.

They also welcome the improvements agreed in the sector of passenger railway transport, in particular, on the agreement reached between RENFE and CP which will boost the international Vigo-Porto service through the creation of a direct train route in both directions and a single ticket as from the summer of 2013 and declare the intent of both parties to complete the electrification of the whole route by 2016.

The two countries also welcome the developments made for implementing the goods railway corridor N° 4 between Portugal, Spain and France to increase the competitiveness of Iberian companies at a Trans-European level, and encourage the railway infrastructure operators to make this corridor operative by November 2013.

With regard to the Aveiro-Salamanca-Irún connection, it should be highlighted that the electrification works on the existing line are being executed according to plan, with the intention, as soon as possible, to provide the whole of this line with the necessary conditions for high capacity goods railway transportation through the gradual introduction of standard European track gauge, electrification and the creation of infrastructure conditions for 750-metre long goods trains, with the appropriate gradients.

As regards the Lisbon-Sinnes-Caia-Madrid-Irún connection, the two countries have agreed to provide these routes with the necessary conditions for high capacity goods transportation through the gradual introduction of standard European track gauge, electrification and the creation of infrastructure conditions for 750-metre long goods trains, with the appropriate gradients.

The two countries consider the immediate development of the interconnections between the Iberian Peninsula and the rest of Continental Europe a priority for the establishment of an internal energy market.

Furthermore, and taking into consideration the conclusions of the 25th Spain-Portugal Summit held on 9 May 2012, the two countries agreed to take the necessary steps to create an ordered and regulated gas market, continuing the work already started on the integration of markets, tariffs and interconnections.

Finally, Spain and Portugal reiterated their commitment to the fight against the tariff deficit as a priority in the energy policies of both countries, since it is a

structural problem that affects both countries. To that end, they will continue implementing the reforms already under way with the aim of ensuring the competitiveness and efficiency of the energy systems and markets, taking into account the major efforts already undertaken to date to foster the use of renewable energies.

Spain and Portugal, as neighbouring countries, maintain economic relations of particular importance. The integration of the two economies, as evidenced by Spain and Portugal joining the European Union, has led to a true Iberian Market within the Single European Market.

Despite the adverse economic situation, our trade exchanges remain relatively strong and are helping to drive our economies.

Within the multilateral and EU agenda, Spain and Portugal share a common position that firmly supports the efforts for international accord on issues of world trade.

As regards the trade agenda of the European Union, Portugal and Spain attribute special importance to the launch of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations, the global results of which are eagerly awaited, and are expected to be positive, extensive and balanced in terms of economic growth and job creation.

The two countries consider it to be very important for their industrial fabric that the EU remains alert and effectively combats unfair trade practices by third countries. In this respect, the importance of the process of modernising trade defence instruments to protect the interests of EU industry is highlighted.

In the area of foreign relations, the Heads of Government acknowledged that the Ibero-American space is a vital area for the respective countries, and for that reason they will work in a dual direction together: as bridges to Europe – bringing the Latin American agenda to the European institutions and policies - and as engines for greater Ibero-American consolidation. This is reflected in our support for the mechanisms of regional integration and in our common goal of strengthening the Ibero-American summit as the forum for political dialogue and agreement *par excellence* for the Ibero-American community. Spain and Portugal feel that they can help achieve a leap in quality by implementing a raft of reforms as regards the operation, frequency and financing of these summits. To that end, we will support the work of the Lagos Commission, which will shortly present initiatives to re-launch the Ibero-American Summits.

The two governments highlight terrorism as one of the greatest threats to international peace and security, as well as one of the most serious violations of the fundamental principles of democracy and of respect for the rule of law. In this respect, they consider the multilateral framework, in particular the United Nations, as an effective and fully legitimate means for responding in the long term to this threat, and highlight the need to promote further cooperation and coordination (both bilateral and multilateral) to effectively fight terrorism.

The Heads of Government warn of the danger to Europe of the presence of Jihadist groups in the Sahel and in North Africa: the close proximity of Spain and Portugal to this area means that the fight against terrorist groups operating in this theatre is a priority issue. They recognise that the strategy for tackling this threat should be focused on a global concept of “security and development”, with the necessary police and judicial cooperation working hand-in-hand with the efforts to improve the difficult economic and social conditions in certain regions of the Sahel and North Africa.

Spain and Portugal are firm supporters of the use of the 5+5 Dialogue and the Union for the Mediterranean as complementary tools in Euro-Maghreb relations. Spain welcomes the fact that Portugal has assumed the Presidency of the Ministerial Office for Foreign Affairs of the 5+5 Dialogue for 2013.

In application of the Joint Declaration for Strengthening Defence Cooperation of 20 November 2012, Spain and Portugal reaffirm their commitment to increase and extend their coordination in the initiatives of the European Union, NATO and the 5+5 Defence Initiative. At an EU level, they agree to coordinate their participation in the Combat Groups; and similarly to co-organise the second module of the High-Level Course of the European for Security and Defence College, to be held in 2013 in Madrid, and in 2014 in Lisbon. They also declare their intent to enhance the coordination of response on European Union missions and operations in the Horn of Africa, an example of which is the EUTM Somalia, and in the Sahel.

Within the framework of NATO, they seek to harmonise their contribution to certain objectives in the Defence Planning Process, and within the context of the Connected Forces Initiative, they declare their intention to jointly host the high visibility NATO Joint Response Force in 2015. In relation to security in the Mediterranean, they highlight the importance of the 5+5 Defence Initiative and confirm their commitment to mutual support for the respective Spanish and Portuguese Presidencies of the Initiative in 2013 and 2014.

Spain and Portugal welcomed the intense and satisfactory bilateral cooperation on all areas of home affairs, aware of having created a true “heritage of cooperation”. They express their satisfaction at the collaboration and exchange of information in the fight against terrorism, against crime and against illegal immigration, and underline the positive results of the sub-working groups on the fight against terrorism and against organised crime that meet on an annual basis. The two countries welcome the deployment of the Integrated System for Coastal Surveillance and Control (Spanish acronym: SIVICC) and the progress made in its interconnection with the Integrated System for Foreign Surveillance (Spanish acronym: SIVE), which constitutes a model for the deployment of the EU’s EUROSUR Project. They also welcomed the presentation in Madrid, on 18 April, of the CLOSEYE Project, which provides satellite surveillance of the EU’s foreign borders. In terms of police cooperation, the two countries welcomed the presentation in Lisbon, on 25 March, of the “European Police Station” Project, which consists of the deployment of joint Spanish-Portuguese patrols of our cities and the smooth operations of the five Police and Border Cooperation Centres. As regards cooperation in terms of Civil Protection, they underline the

service provided to the citizens of both countries.

The Governments of Spain and Portugal reaffirm their commitment to promoting the development and application of the principles contained in the Albufeira Convention, following the progress made by the Committee on the Application and Development of the Albufeira Convention (CADC), held in Lisbon on 19 December 2012. They expectantly await the results of the next meeting of the full session of the CADC, which will take place in Madrid in July. The two parties agree to foster the joint preparation of a new generation of management plans for shared water basins, already initiated through the constitution of a working group on “The planning and establishment of an action schedule”, in effect from 2016 to 2021.

On another note, the two countries welcome the results of the work carried on in matters of environmental assessment within the framework of the Protocol for Action in the Environmental Assessment of Plans, Programmes and Projects with cross-border effects. In this respect, they take on the commitment to maintain more fluid contact at a technical level and to strengthen the exchange of information between their respective public administration services.

As regards fishing, the two governments express their satisfaction at the smooth development of the “Bilateral agreement on conditions for exercising the activity of the Spanish and Portuguese fleets in the waters of the two countries”. Spain and Portugal will drive the work for reviewing the agreement with the aim of it entering into force on 1 January 2014.

The Heads of Government underline the importance of cross-border cooperation as a strategic pillar of their bilateral relations and welcome the results of the 7th Spanish-Portuguese Committee for Cross-Border Cooperation, that took place in Vigo on 4 April.

The two governments express their satisfaction at the excellent relations that exist at both an educational and cultural level. In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding is signed to strengthen cultural cooperation between the two countries, reaffirming their will to support bilateral cultural exchanges through greater institutional dialogue, and to promote the convergence and development of their respective creative sectors.

They welcome the award of the 4th edition of the Spanish-Portuguese Art and Culture Prize 2012 to Carlos Saura, for his effective contribution to mutual cultural awareness in both countries.

They reaffirm their interest in continuing to support all efforts to promote teaching the Spanish language in Portugal and the Portuguese language in Spain. They also reiterate their intent to collaborate bilaterally with the aim of drawing up common strategies on European and international issues. On matter of higher education and in application of the Memorandum of Understanding signed at the 25th Portugal-Spain Summit, they agreed to set up a strengthened cooperation mechanism to speed up the mutual recognition of university qualifications.

The two parties welcomed the signing of the tripartite Portugal-Spain-Brazil Memorandum on 8 March 2013 which, by strengthening cooperation between the three countries, will give renewed vigour to the International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL), located in Braga.

The Heads of Government expressed their satisfaction with the Spanish-Portuguese Business Meeting.

The Heads of Government have taken note of the conclusions of the 3rd Parliamentary Forum that took place in Madrid on 6 and 7 May, which represents an important framework for dialogue and proximity in bilateral relations.

The next summit will take place in Portugal in 2014, and will include the 4th meeting of the Spanish-Portuguese Security and Defence Council.
