

Spain-Italy Summit

JOINT STATEMENT

Rome, 27 January 2014

The Spain-Italy Summit took place in Rome on 27 January 2014. Over the course of the summit, it was clearly demonstrated that the two countries agree and share common ground on both bilateral issues and the main issues affecting European affairs. The President of the Government of Spain, Mariano Rajoy, and the Prime Minister of the Italian Republic, Enrico Letta, held a meeting and led two important delegations in terms of both their size and the high-level nature of their members. Besides the Spanish State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Benito Secades, and the Italian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister, Marta Dassù, the two delegations also included the following members: Spanish and Italian Home Affairs Ministers Fernández and Alfano; Spanish and Italian Defence Ministers Morenés and Mauro; Spanish Minister for Industry, Energy and Tourism Soria and Italian Economic Development Minister Zanonato; Spanish Minister for Employment and Social Security Báñez and Italian Employment and Social Policy Minister Giovannini; Spanish Minister for Public Works Pastor and Italian Infrastructure and Transport Minister Lupi; Italian Education, Universities and Research Minister Carrozza; Spanish Minister for Health, Social Policies and Equality Mato and Italian Health Minister Lorenzin; Spanish State Secretary for Research, Development and Innovation Vela Olmo; Italian European Affairs Minister Moavero Milanesi; and Spanish State Secretary for European Affairs Méndez de Vigo.

The summit showed a strong understanding between the two countries on both European and international affairs. Spain and Italy reiterated their commitment to making a significant contribution to the efforts aimed at seeking specific solutions to the challenges being faced in Europe, particularly the return to growth and job creation. All bilateral projects and relations between Spain and Italy take place within this framework of joint effort. Besides the specific short-term solutions and also looking ahead to the upcoming European elections, Spain and Italy are proposing that additional support be given to the re-launch of the European integration process with a special focus on several fundamental issues that will be included in the priorities for the six-month Italian Presidency of the European Union.

Italy and Spain are especially interested in the proposals from the President of the General Confederation of Italian Industries (COFINDUSTRIA), Mr. Giorgio Squinzi,

and the President of the Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations (CEOE), Mr. Juan Rosell, aimed at strengthening trade cooperation between the two countries.

To conclude this Summit, President of the Government of Spain Rajoy and Prime Minister of the Italian Republic Letta issued the following joint statement:

Economic and Monetary Union

We are firmly convinced that further development of the EMU is an historic process and an irreversible policy that will contribute to the prosperity of our citizens. With courage, a strong desire and broad vision, it is our intention to build an authentic Economic and Monetary Union capable of producing a space of opportunities for growth and job creation based on the principles of integration and solidarity. To that end, our efforts to build the Eurozone will be maintained. In particular, our efforts on the four pillars needed for the Eurozone to operate properly will continue: financial integration, economic integration, fiscal integration and greater democratic legitimacy.

- Financial Integration: Banking Union

Spain and Italy agree on the need to resolve the problem of financial market fragmentation and the difficulties encountered by small- and medium-sized enterprises when seeking credit, as well as the vicious circle of bank debt-sovereign debt. In response to these challenges, Spain and Italy underline the vital importance of implementing Banking Union immediately and agree that it must be based on three pillars: a single supervisory mechanism, a single resolution mechanism comprising a European single resolution fund supported by a common public "backstop", and a common deposit guarantee system.

Spain and Italy welcome the recent entry into force of the single supervisory mechanism. It is their wish that the asset quality review and stress tests - due to take place in 2014 - be transparent, ambitious, credible and coherent in nature.

Concerning the European Single Resolution Mechanism - an essential factor for creating stability in the Eurozone - and the improvement of credit conditions for companies, we positively welcome the ECOFIN Council agreement in December on the legislative proposal from the Commission. It is our wish for satisfactory results to

be achieved in terms of both finalising the regulation in agreement with the European Parliament and the expected inter-governmental agreement, as well as the immediate start of work on creating a European public “backstop” within the single resolution fund.

- Economic Integration: convergence and coordination of economic policies

Spain and Italy support the goal of improving the coordination of economic policies in those areas that affect the proper application of the Economic and Monetary Union and that could enhance growth potential in the region. This process should be developed according to a clear and legitimate distribution of European and national responsibilities.

Spain and Italy also believe it is necessary to design common solutions at a European level to promote stable and long-lasting growth perspectives, and sustainable levels of employment. In this regard, establishing a mechanism to accompany and stimulate national commitments for the continuation of structural reforms on competitiveness and growth, as well as those concerning investment, could provide an instrument for facilitating convergence between the economies of Eurozone Member States and a basis on which to move towards increased capability for stabilisation in the Eurozone. Against this backdrop, Italy and Spain underline the need to work together on drawing up the characteristics of contractual agreements for competitiveness and growth, as well as others on incentivisation mechanisms.

- Fiscal Integration: financial capacity for the Eurozone

Alongside greater coordination of economic policies, Spain and Italy believe that authentic fiscal capacity for the Eurozone is an essential factor for the proper implementation of a more integrated economy. It should be possible for this integrated budgetary instrument to finance policies and investment of common interest in support of growth and job creation, and should be able to play a stabilising role aimed at absorbing the asymmetrical shocks experienced by the Eurozone. Furthermore, the vital importance of social aspects of the EMU must be recognised to thereby prevent social imbalances and facilitate convergence.

- Democratic Legitimacy and Governance

Spain and Italy agree that the European integration process is a guarantee of prosperity for our countries. To that end, further development of EMU integration is a guarantee of a better future for our citizens that should also be accompanied by increased political integration capable of strengthening the democratic legitimacy of our European unity project in response to the growth of a populist movement and the euroscepticism that undermine this integration process. The EU must prioritise maintaining the citizen at the centre of the integration project and thereby gain ground in terms of the "perceived representation" felt by citizens through specific actions - such as the EMU - leading to actual results capable of demonstrating the added value to be gained from the EU in response to their concerns. The European elections in May are an opportunity to hold an inclusive debate on the outlook for the EU capable of fostering the election of a strongly legitimised pro-European Parliament, aware of the crucial challenges that the 2014-2019 legislature will need to face moving forward.

ITALIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Strengthening the European integration process will be one of the priorities for the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2014, with a view to offering specific responses to the demands of citizens. Stemming from the elections to renew the European Parliament, the priority in the first half of a "legislature of growth" will be the establishment of better conditions to support economic growth and job creation - particularly for young people, in line with the objectives of the "Europe 2020" strategy.

Spain and Italy are committed to consulting with one another on a regular basis to further develop both this issue and the following issues, which will comprise the core priorities for the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union:

- strengthening Economic and Monetary Union by achieving Banking Union and finalising other instruments that are currently being debated to strengthen the Eurozone;
- strengthening the internal market of the European Union to stimulate growth, competitiveness and job creation;
- the definition and implementation of a European industrial policy capable of making an effective contribution to employment growth, especially among young people;

- the definition and implementation of a European policy on migratory flows in the Mediterranean capable of comprehensively tackling this problem through the use of all available resources;
- continuation of the process to expand and strengthen the overseas influence of Europe, especially with a view to developing relations with strategic partners and producing a more effective Neighbourhood Policy - above all in the Mediterranean basin to optimise potential synergies between the various initiatives in this area; and
- the European contribution to sustainable development and food security - topics that will also play a central role at the 2015 Milan EXPO ("Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life").

Spain and Italy also agree on the need to maintain close coordination on issues of democratic legitimacy and relations with the European Parliament and national parliaments ahead of the important elections and institutional events in 2014 and the Italian Presidency.

Similarly, Italy and Spain acknowledge the need to maintain close coordination within the framework of the General Affairs Council in order to guarantee the oversight of actions by the various sectoral groups of the Council with competency for the recurring topics of interest for the European Council.

At the same time, Spain and Italy agree on their desire to collaborate during the start of the next institutional cycle on defining a shared reform process capable of synthesising the various stimuli for renewal emerging from within the EU today. This process must focus on the path for building a more integrated and democratic Europe in such key areas as the EMU, the single market, research and innovation, a more competitive Europe aimed at growth and job creation, a Europe with more solidarity and closer to the needs of the citizens, a less "intrusive" Europe in areas that could be managed better at a national level on the basis of the subsidiarity principle.

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF EUROPE AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

1. Italy and Spain confirm their strong intention to work hard on ensuring that the Economic and Monetary Union is capable of producing specific responses to the

demands of our citizens in terms of employment and social policy issues. They are also committed to maintaining their efforts in pursuit of jobs for young people, taking support from the European instruments included in the Youth Employment Initiative.

2. Implementation of the “Youth Guarantee” at a European level represents an important step forward, on which Italy and Spain are committed to achieving progress through the swift implementation of the respective Action Plans.

3. Spain and Italy welcome the mobilisation of European funds, of which 6 billion euros will be made available to Member States through the European Youth Employment Initiative. Italy and Spain underline the importance of guaranteeing the effective release of funds from the European Youth Employment Initiative as from 2014 and they invite the Commission and the Council to avoid a negative impact from the increased costs associated with this Initiative within the framework of the Stability and Growth Pact by using the flexibility included in the initiative.

4. Italy and Spain agree to set up a reflection group as soon as possible on the best way to obtain a reliable calculation of investment in human capital, with a view to its possible consideration within the flexibility margins established in the European procedures on the public deficit - in the same way as that which has been recognised by the Commission for investment in physical capital.

5. Italy and Spain also believe it is necessary to adequately tackle the issues of employment and social issues within the framework of the G-20, and welcome the recent experiences from joint meetings between the Employment and Finance Ministries. They would like to see those meetings continue and gain strength.

6. Italy and Spain intend to develop cooperation on active employment policies, with a particular focus on measures to promote jobs for young people. One issue identified for bilateral cooperation concerns the programmes implemented by the two countries - the *Botteghe di Mestiere* designed by the Italian Employment and Social Policies Ministry and the *Escuelas Taller y Casas de Oficios* launched by the Spanish Ministry of Employment and Social Security and supported by the Public Employment Service in Spain).

IMMIGRATION AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

Spain and Italy consider migration a priority issue and call for a coherent commitment from the EU based on the conclusions from the European Council in December with a view to defining the policy perspectives for the five-year period 2015-2020 in the JHA sector.

Moreover, there is a need to consider the specific nature of illegal immigration that occurs in the Mediterranean, as well as the unique nature and special responsibility assumed by the countries - like Spain and Italy - that form the external borders of the European Union. Hence, the control of illegal immigration is a responsibility that should be shared by the entire European Union and all its Member States.

In order to achieve these objectives, the two parties underlined the importance of adopting specific operational measures in the short term capable of combating illegal immigration and the organised crime that controls it. The European Council in December reiterated the European value of migration-related issues, committing the European Commission to regularly report on the application of the 38 specific measures and actions identified by the Task Force on the Mediterranean. Against this backdrop, Spain and Italy believe that support from those countries in the region being called upon to play a fundamental role in the rescue and care of emigrants is a topic requiring priority attention and they are committed to increased collaboration with FRONTEX on the control of Mediterranean borders.

Spain and Italy also believe that preventing the root causes behind migratory flows at source and cooperation with the main countries of origin and transit in those migratory flows are key actions in the fight against illegal immigration.

In this regard, the two parties underlined the importance of formulating operational cooperation with the countries of origin and transit on the tasks of border control and supervision. The mobility and security partnerships between the European Union and countries in North Africa represent a key instrument for tackling the challenges posed by the migration phenomenon, as well as such regional dialogue processes as the Rabat Process with countries in West Africa.

At the same time, EU policies in support of the countries on the southern shore of the Mediterranean will enable more flexible and effective use of existing financial resources, with a specific focus on funds from the ENI and DCI (Development Cooperation Instrument) to be made available in the next financial programme 2014-2020.

Consequently, there is a need to configure a medium- and long-term strategy within the framework of dialogue on immigration with the countries of origin and transit that also includes the aspects of migration and development while, at the same time, carrying out effective information and awareness campaigns on the risks associated with illegal immigration.

For that purpose, Spain and Italy reiterate the priority also given to the Mediterranean within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy in close coordination with local authorities and other international stakeholders to support growth and democratic transition in our southern neighbourhood. To that end, Spain and Italy would like the option to adequately exploit the potential synergies existing between the various initiatives in support of the Mediterranean and would also like the opportunity to support the implementation of a framework that could optimise the use of financial resources made available in this regard.

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Spain and Italy are fully aware of the security challenges being faced by Europe and the international community, and intend to establish a common front for a joint response to them - including action within the European Union, NATO and the UN - so as to protect their own citizens while respecting international law and fundamental freedoms. Our two countries are also heavily involved in the operations carried out by the European Union, NATO and the United Nations: we welcome the very close collaboration between our Armed Forces, which are working on these joint operations, especially in Lebanon, Afghanistan, Mali, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Horn of Africa in the fight against piracy.

Spain and Italy are aware that, to play an increasingly necessary and important role in the international efforts in pursuit of peace and stability, the European Union must develop and further implement the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). This policy has been successful in presenting itself as a way to integrate national policies and serve as a shared tool for responding to common EU demands, and not simply a multiplier of priorities in each country. Spain and Italy will therefore work on achieving progress and specific results in the three core areas of the current debate on the CSDP.

Italy and Spain intend to work closely together on strengthening the overseas influence of the European Union, especially within the CFSP and CSDP through improvements to the EEAS and adequate involvement in the field of civilian and military missions.

Effective, Reactive and Visible Nature of the CSDP

As regards the first aspect, Spain and Italy will make particular efforts to increase the role played by the CSDP in the security and border management sectors of non-EU countries, with a special focus on the regions located on the southern shore of the Mediterranean. Spain and Italy will work towards adopting an effective maritime security strategy by implementing their corresponding Action Plans as from 2014, in the Mediterranean first of all.

European Capability Projects

Italy and Spain are participating in the European capability projects structured around the afore-mentioned strengthening of the CSDP.

To that end, Spain and Italy particularly support those projects taking place in the field of in-flight refuelling capability and the construction of a fleet of interoperable European refuelling aircraft, unmanned aircraft, satellite communications, cyber-security, maritime security and the SESAR Project (the technology aspects of the European "Single Sky" Project).

Spain and Italy welcome the commitment from the Commission in support of developing capabilities with its own financial instruments.

Furthermore, it is our wish for cyber-defence to become fully integrated into European security and defence policies, by taking support from the European cyber-defence strategy.

Industrial and Technology Base for Defence in Europe

Finally, as regards the third aspect, Spain and Italy confirm their support for the proposals included in the communiqué entitled *Towards a More Competitive and Efficient Defence and Security Sector* aimed at developing the industrial and technology base in Europe and promoting greater integration and increased

competitiveness in this sector within the internal market. While fully respecting national sovereignty, Italy and Spain recall that the European Commission must undertake a study of fiscal aid mechanisms and innovative financing methods capable of incentivising investment and projects in the field of common dual and military capabilities, as stated in the Conclusions from the European Council meeting held on 19-20 December.

Finally, Spain and Italy are strongly convinced that the conclusions from the European Council and, in general, the debate on how to reactivate EU defence policies must represent a stimulus for launching a structured and regular process aimed at re-establishing cooperation on defence between Member States of the European Union on a permanent basis, in particular for better coordinating policies and national budgets in this sector.

BILATERAL DEFENCE COOPERATION

Spain and Italy intend to strengthen their military cooperation with a view to increasing interoperability that mutually benefits their armed forces in those theatres where they conduct joint operations, thereby fostering the exchange of doctrine in the sector and the use of these Armed Forces.

In the aviation sector, we support the EDA certification project for recipients of European aircraft.

As regards the Navy, Spain and Italy express their full satisfaction with the signing of the Technical Agreement in the Maritime Security sector at the Venice Symposium in October 2012.

Within the defence industry cooperation sector, Spain and Italy confirm the important role played by the bilateral committee comprised of the National Arms Directors as a forum for determining common capability demands and launching future projects of a bilateral nature.

Regarding the 5+5 Initiative, Italy and Spain - which holds Presidency of the Initiative in terms of Defence this year - will make efforts to further develop the maritime aspects of the Initiative, confirming the fundamental importance given to the Mediterranean region in support of a more effective Euro-Mediterranean policy.

Both parties are committed to maintaining the study of potential contributions from Spanish and Italian maritime surveillance military units in areas of common interest.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Italy and Spain are promoting close collaboration between their respective governments in the field of internal affairs, and highlight their mutual commitment to strengthening this cooperation.

Fully aware of the importance of security for both countries, and on the basis of the excellent bilateral cooperation that already exists, Spain and Italy reiterate their shared interest in strengthening the measures adopted in the fight against terrorism and cross-border organised crime, with a particular focus on drug trafficking, immigrant trafficking and people trafficking. Furthermore, they reiterate the importance of implementing operational cooperation.

While stressing the already excellent bilateral collaboration between the two countries in the fight against drug trafficking, Spain and Italy reiterate their shared commitment to combating the cross-border criminal organisations that operate in the two countries with a view to controlling drug trafficking activity.

As regards terrorism and while expressing their satisfaction with the high level of cooperation achieved to date, Spain and Italy stress that terrorism constitutes an international threat and its eradication is a priority. Hence the need to promote all those coordination mechanisms that currently exist, which include the positive experience gained from the multinational *ad hoc* teams. On the matter of home-grown terrorism, Italy reaffirms its commitment to Spain in the fight against international and domestic terrorism.

Both countries describe the situation in the Sahel and Mali as alarming, while the installation of terrorism, the political crisis which persists in Libya and the situation in Egypt and the countries of the Horn of Africa and the dramatic situation in Syria - which have once again led to the arrival of immigrants, mainly on Italian coasts - constitute a serious cause for concern. These issues also greatly affect the strengthening of ties between different terrorist organisations.

They are therefore committed to fostering greatly increased awareness among the international community - especially within the EU - for the development of more

resounding action to be carried out at two different levels. On the one hand, the goal of this action is to combat a phenomenon that is increasingly characterised by the speed with which terrorist cells are set up and installed; on the other hand, the goal is to take action with a view to stabilising the entire north of Africa and Sahara region, bearing in mind the close ties that exist between the various theatres of conflict.

In their shared concern over the prolongation of the crisis in Libya and the increasing flow of people crossing the Mediterranean from that country, Spain and Italy insist on the need for a European strategy for the southern EU borders.

Hence, it is their wish for the European Union - through cooperation from its Member States - to enhance capacity-building programmes in the non-EU countries of origin and transit for migratory flows, as well as regional protection programmes, to help refugees *in situ* and to implement effective information and awareness campaigns on the risks associated with illegal immigration.

Furthermore, the two countries will collaborate with Europe to identify synergies and solutions for the management of migratory flows while fully respecting human rights.

Both countries have closely followed and made real contributions to the work carried out by the Task Force on the Mediterranean, for which they would like to see significant results ahead of the European Council in June 2014 that will once again discuss the issues of asylum and migration from a long-term perspective by drawing up strategic lines in the areas of justice and internal affairs.

To that end, Spain and Italy will be able to establish synergies in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice within the framework provided by the renewal of the Stockholm Programme aimed at setting a roadmap for sharing priorities in the JHA sector ahead of the Italian Presidency in 2014. In this regard, the re-launch of European action must also consider common actions taken against terrorism and the conditions in various core sectors - such as the Internet - through policies that are adapted to cyber-security, the efforts to prevent the infiltration of criminal gangs into legal economic activities - while also identifying the wealth generated by unlawful activity - and the development of balanced mobility policies capable of fostering legal immigration - while combating the criminal organisations that exploit illegal phenomena.

INTERNAL MARKET

Spain and Italy welcome the progress achieved within the framework provided by the Single Market Act I and call for the greatest possible effort to conclude those proposals that remain pending (e-signature, posting of workers). As regards the Single Market Act II, the two countries agree that the legislative proposals are not advancing at the desired pace and express their desire for work to be stepped up so they may be adopted during the current parliamentary cycle.

TRADE

Economic, trade and bilateral investment relations are characterised by strong activity, as would naturally be the case between two developed economies that share the common European project. The data on 2012 reflect the tough economic conditions but also the strength and capacity for recovery of our bilateral economic relations.

Spain and Italy share and support the current priorities of EU trade policy as a means to stimulate growth and return the economy to a path of sustainable economic development capable of generating jobs and sustainability for the social protection system.

To that end, Spain and Italy support agreement on an ambitious European trade and investment agenda capable of offering our industry - and SMEs in particular - new opportunities to export and invest.

This requires Free Trade Agreements to be negotiated by the European Union that include mechanisms for the adequate protection of industry and investors and intellectual property rights, while particularly promoting the protection of geographical indications even beyond the agreements reached at a multilateral level.

As regards the agreements currently being negotiated, Spain and Italy believe that the TTIP is particularly important, and making progress on cooperation and the elimination of non-tariff barriers to the trade of both goods and services is crucial, as is adequate protection for the designations of origin.

Spain and Italy wish for the EU to provide itself with modern trade defence instruments capable of combating unfair competition and defending the legitimate interests of EU industry.

INDUSTRY

Spain and Italy are both concerned by the gradually shrinking contribution from the manufacturing industry to European GDP, which has recently fallen from 15.5% in 2012 to 15.3% in 2013. They would like it to be possible to adopt an ambitious agenda in support of European industry at the European Council in March.

Our governments would like to see a redesign of European regulations on competition, State aid and energy in light of the changes being imposed by the competitive global context, as well as the creation of an effective system to oversee financial aid awarded outside of the EU so that European companies are not put at a disadvantage when compared with their international competitors.

Spain and Italy share a demand for greater focus to be placed on the industrial component of the Competitiveness Council in order to effectively support the real economy and certain industrial sectors that have been worst affected by the crisis. Nonetheless, the European industrial policy should not forget its integration with other European policies that may influence the competitiveness of European companies, such as the policies on environmental affairs, foreign trade, competition, State aid and energy.

Spain and Italy welcome the results achieved at the 1st "Friends of Industry" Ministerial Conference held in Paris on 23 October and would like it to be possible to approve an operational agenda at the second meeting - due to be held in Rome on 30 January - to add new impetus to European industry.

Our governments reiterate their common position on the proposed Regulation on product safety and market supervision, and would like the Council to find a compromise solution capable of safeguarding the compulsory nature of product labelling referred to by Article 7 of said proposal.

ENERGY

Spain and Italy confirm their commitment to a European energy policy aimed at guaranteeing both supply security and the economic and environmental sustainability of energy systems. In this regard, the two countries express their willingness to cooperate on European initiatives in the oil and gas sector and on energy infrastructure capable of fostering the effective creation of an integrated and efficient market that can boost the competitiveness of industry and the economy in general.

Spain and Italy are committed to working together at the European Council in March, the main topics of which include EU Action on Climate Change and Energy Policy, as well as measures to strengthen Industrial Policy. All these issues are key to the future economic and industrial competitiveness of the European Union.

The two countries underline the importance of close collaboration between Spain and Italy for integrating the European energy market as an inevitable step towards the promotion of initiatives that foster the European integration and cooperation process in the Mediterranean region. Both countries express their concern over the impact that high energy prices may have on industrial competitiveness.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Governments of Spain and Italy recognise the fundamental role that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) will have to play in economic recovery, given that they represent a key source of innovation and new business opportunities. Member States should join forces to take swift action on the digital agency under conditions that speed up growth and enhance the competitiveness of Europe in the global economy.

Special attention should be given to the development of ultra-fast networks, fostering an innovative industry, e-training and e-commerce.

JUSTICE

Spain and Italy agreed to strengthen their bilateral relations in the field of justice and wish to maintain permanent dialogue on the operation of their respective legal systems and on possible reforms, especially in terms of criminal matters.

Spain and Italy expressed their appreciation of the excellent judicial cooperation that exists between the two countries and especially the operational collaboration between their respective judiciaries in the fight against organised crime and drug trafficking.

Spain and Italy expressed their common commitment to strengthening the European area of justice by adopting legislative initiatives and applying those that already exist, improving practical collaboration between judicial networks and developing mutual trust between the judiciaries of both countries.

NUTRITION, FOOD SAFETY AND INNOVATION: STRATEGIES AIMED AT IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF THE POPULATION

The two countries are committed to joining forces in two specific areas of action:

- In the field of innovation, by prioritising the incorporation of e-health innovation into health policies - especially in areas associated with chronic illness and active aging. To that end, they express their commitment to mutual support and collaboration in this area, and to strengthening the leadership of both Mediterranean countries within the EU in this regard.
- In the field of nutrition and food safety, Spain and Italy share an interest in the existence of a Europe-wide model for providing consumers with nutritional information that avoids the existence of alternative models that could possibly create obstacles to fostering dynamic activity in the internal market or lead to a negative effect on consumers.
- Historically-speaking, Spain and Italy share a common food model in the Mediterranean Diet and express their commitment to promoting the Mediterranean Diet as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and as a model for healthy eating that is rich in cereals, legumes, fruit, vegetables and olive oil.
- To that end, Spain and Italy will cooperate on raising awareness among consumers about the importance of the Mediterranean Diet as an integral part of a balanced and healthy lifestyle, which includes the practice of moderate and regular physical exercise, and which is accompanied by an expression of sociability and family and local communication, which extends to the feeling

of belonging to a community, the promotion of a territory and its cultural diversity.

Italy and Spain are also committed to promoting any useful initiative at a European level for strengthening control measures that govern food security and consumer protection.

EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Spain and Italy express their firm desire to maintain their collaboration in the sectors of education, higher education and research - including within the scope of EU programmes - and will also work to develop common initiatives related to said programmes in line with the 20th programme of bilateral cultural and scientific cooperation for the period 2009-2013.

To that end, the two countries agree that said programme should be renewed for the next three-year period - also in light of the upcoming Italian Presidency of the European Union in the second half of the year - and agree on the implementation of the Horizon 2020 framework research programme and the Erasmus Plus education programme.

As regards the education sector, Spain and Italy are each committed to fostering the uptake of the language and culture of the other country, and actions will be continued to improve mutual knowledge of their respective education systems - also based on the positive experience gained from the Cervantes high school in Rome and the Italian high schools in Madrid and Barcelona. Italy has noted the reforms introduced into the Spanish school system, in light of which it will be easier to foresee the recognition of a dual secondary education qualification and the *Diploma di Esame di Stato d'Istruzione Secondaria di secondo grado*, as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 14 April 2010. To that end, the two countries are committed to identifying the pertinent actions that should be taken to draw up the new integrated syllabuses and the application methods for preparing the exams associated with obtaining the dual qualification.

As regards higher education, the two countries will continue to foster the already numerous and effective direct contacts between universities and other higher education centres.

They have noted the fact that these contacts have fostered intense student exchange activity - based on the Erasmus Programme - and invite universities to improve the quality of the learning mobility experiences enjoyed by their respective students in accordance with the best practices shared at a European level. Furthermore, they invite the agencies that assess the quality of their respective university systems to strengthen collaboration in order to improve their assessment processes by sharing national experiences and best practices.

As regards the Bologna Process, the two countries welcome the first positive results emerging from the joint collaboration on coordinating the Task Force on the third cycle, with the added collaboration of Romania. That Task Force - set up under the Bologna Process - will have to make a substantial contribution to the commitments assumed by the ministerial departments in 2015 and present recommendations aimed at enhancing improvements to the research doctorate.

As regards scientific and technology cooperation, Spain and Italy confirm their intention to further promote collaboration between their respective public research bodies, especially in the fields of nuclear and particle physics, astronomy, nanoscience and nanotechnology, and earth and ocean sciences - with a particular focus on the areas of greatest interest - the Mediterranean and the Arctic. On the launch of the European Horizon 2020 Programme, Spain and Italy would like to see the utmost collaboration - making best use of the COTEC network - to maintain a strong focus on those research topics of priority common interest - especially the conservation of cultural, tangible and intangible heritage - by continuing their collaboration within the scope of UNESCO to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expression. They would also like to see the utmost cooperation on research centred on the Mediterranean basin, to which end they have adopted a favourable position regarding the establishment of an EU work programme on said topic under Article 185 of the TFEU.

As regards the space sector, Spain and Italy wish to further strengthen the already consolidated collaboration at a European and international level in terms of both the activity undertaken by the European Space Agency (ESA) - of which the two countries are founders - and existing EU programmes such as GALILEO and GMES/Copernicus, SST and Horizon 2020, as well as by signing the framework partnership agreement between the Spanish Centre for Industrial and Technological Development (CDTI) and the Italian Space Agency (ASI) that is currently being finalised.

Finally, as regards the matter of existing collaboration in the field of nuclear fusion - especially the construction of the ITER experimental reactor and on the research and development programme supporting its experiments, Spain and Italy welcome the excellent results obtained to date through existing partnerships at both an industrial level and between their respective benchmark research laboratories (CIEMAT and ENEA). Our countries therefore propose to increase our research collaboration in said sector and also express a common interest in our continued participation on the implementation of the *Broader Approach* agreement between Europe and Japan, in support of which our respective scientific communities are making a decisive contribution.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Spain and Italy agree on the importance of the CAP reform, as well as the reform of the CMO in fruit and vegetables. In this regard, and within the scope of said reform in fruit and vegetables, they underline the importance of maintaining the current level of aid for producer organisations in any potential future proposals from the European Commission.

Spain and Italy underline the importance of properly safeguarding agricultural interests within the scope of current negotiations on free trade agreements with non-EU countries, especially with regard to protecting Geographic Indications and sensitive products.

Spain and Italy express their concern over the labelling initiatives introduced by certain Member States with the potential to distort the market without correctly informing consumers about the requirements of a balanced and healthy diet.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

Spain and Italy agree on the role played by major trans-European infrastructure projects - the TEN-T networks - in fostering growth and job creation, objectives of vital importance on which the next European legislature must be focused. Hence the need for close collaboration between the European Commission and the Member States on developing ways to promote such activity that help Member States undertake investments in these large-scale projects.

The two delegations then reviewed the main topics for the upcoming Italian Presidency of the European Union (4th Railway Package, Port System, Airport Package and Single Sky II+).

The two countries reiterate the need for European negotiation on the deregulation and governance of the railway sector to move forward swiftly, leading to a standardised application of the principle of deregulation capable of fostering equal investment opportunities for companies in all EU countries. The two countries intend to collaborate on airport and sea port issues with a view to creating the necessary synergies between Member States in a European level debate on the priorities for the Italian Presidency.

Spain and Italy highlight the importance of maritime traffic between the two countries - both passenger and cargo, as well as the existence of a network of short-distance maritime transport routes between Spanish and Italian ports promoted by private initiative with aid under the Marco Polo Programme of the European Union.

The two countries express their interest in extending the so-called "ecobonus" mechanism - aid to the demand for this form of transport established by Italy - to other Member States of the European Union through the appropriate structure and budgetary provision within the framework of the Common Transport Policy.

Along the same lines as the statements signed at the Bilateral Summits in 2005 and 2007, the Intergovernmental Agreement of 2009 and the strong collaboration that exists between the bodies that run the ports in both countries and which have jointly participated in projects co-financed with funds from the Trans-European Transport Network, Spain and Italy agree on the creation of an inter-ministerial working group for the sharing of measures to boost short-distance maritime transport in both countries with a view to strengthening existing links between Spanish and Italian ports and fostering the creation of new links.

CULTURAL COLLABORATION

Spain and Italy share the goal of promoting - both bilaterally and within the scope of European affairs - the awareness that culture and heritage policies can make a significant contribution to inter-cultural dialogue, social cohesion and increase the quality of life in the corresponding countries, and that they can be considered as

promising areas for employment and business, especially with regard to the matter of youth employment.

Spain and Italy therefore welcome the constructive collaboration that currently exists between their respective entities in the various sectors of cultural activity and reiterate their common desire to strengthen said collaboration with a view to reaffirming their own common values.

Collaboration in the sectors of theatre, dance, music and contemporary circus is important for stimulating the circulation of works and texts - as well as artists and operators - and for creating a European common cultural environment.

Archive authorities in Spain and Italy regularly enjoy the opportunity to meet and collaborate within the scope of the International Council on Archives and collaborate within the scope of the coordination bodies between the archives of the European Union (European Archives Group and European Board of National Archivists).

FOREIGN AFFAIRS POLICY

Global and Multilateral Affairs

Spain and Italy reiterate their commitment to collaborating on multilateral affairs in light of their common interests and their desire to cooperate within the main international multilateral organisations and forums.

NATO

Spain and Italy would like the next NATO Summit in 2014 to contribute towards strengthening trans-Atlantic ties and promoting a vision of a modern NATO capable of tackling current security demands from the perspective of a renewed focus on the challenges and opportunities emerging from the Mediterranean region and the Middle East. Spain and Italy underline the importance of further strengthening cooperation and complementarity between NATO and the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union, and regarding the development of defence capabilities. They also highlight the importance of consolidating and updating the architecture of the NATO Partnerships.

Ukraine

Spain and Italy are following the development of events in Ukraine with great concern, particularly the climate of violence that has emerged. We call for dialogue aimed at finding a negotiated solution to the political crisis taking place in Ukraine and hope that EU efforts to encourage inclusive dialogue can lead to a democratic solution as soon as possible.

Eastern Europe and Caucasus

Spain and Italy state they will give priority to further developing relations between the European Union and Russia during the upcoming Italian Presidency of the EU, also proposing close collaboration on various aspects of the international agenda by promoting joint initiatives.

Additionally, the two countries consider the Eastern Partnership policies a priority as they reflect the expression of a generous European offer to our neighbours in the east, with whom we wish to further develop our relations based on common values and principles. Spain and Italy reiterate their conviction that this partnership is also advantageous for those countries expressing the most criticism - starting with Russia - as it has not been designed to create divisive barriers but rather to benefit the creation of integrated areas of freedom and justice, strengthen trade and investment, and consolidate democracy and modernise the economy; the ultimate goal being to obtain a common space spanning from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

We especially welcome the approval of Partnership Agreements with Moldova and Georgia - an expression of the good understanding and mutual political desire to continue developing our relations. We will promote the signing of these agreements in 2014. We trust that Azerbaijan will confirm its intention to strengthen relations with the EU for the mutual benefit of both parties. We are promoting the search for a framework capable of advancing our relations with Armenia. We regret the Ukrainian decision to delay the signing of its Partnership Agreement with the European Union. For our part, we consider the offer still open while efforts are made for conditions to be reached in Ukraine and certain criteria to be met. The ongoing dialogue on modernisation with Belarus will undoubtedly help lay the foundations for progress in other areas.

The Balkans

Spain and Italy reaffirm their firm support of the integration process between the Balkans and the European Union and, in light of the significant progress made in

2013, renew their support for the countries in that region so they may promote and implement the reforms necessary to give more weight to their European perspective. Against this backdrop, we welcome the start of negotiations with Serbia as an important step and an important signal for the entire region to maintain the reform effort, as well as the process undertaken by all countries in the region to establish closer ties with the European Union.

Syria

Spain and Italy reiterate their full support for the Geneva Conference held on 22 January in Montreux as the first step in a process that must conclude with a political solution to the crisis whereby the main objective is the formation of a transitional government with full powers and whose composition is decided by common agreement between the parties on the basis of the Geneva Communiqué of June 2012. They guarantee their full support for the efforts by Special Envoy Brahimi and the governments of Russia and the United States in this regard. The two countries strongly condemn the continued violence in Syria, the brutal repression by the regime and acts of terrorism by any party.

The priority must be to guarantee access for humanitarian aid into the country, especially to besieged areas. Spain and Italy strongly support the urgent and essential need to put an end to hostilities in the country, in conjunction with the development of negotiations.

The two countries reaffirm the legitimate aspiration of the Syrian people for a united, sovereign, free and democratic Syria that respects human rights and the prerogatives of its ethnic and religious communities.

Maghreb

Spain and Italy share a particular interest in the developments taking place in the countries of North Africa as a priority and neighbouring region. In this regard, they trust that the processes of reform or political transition that began in 2011 can overcome the challenges still being faced.

The two countries welcome the reform projects put in place by the governments of Morocco and Algeria, two partners of leading importance for Spain and Italy in the Maghreb.

Italy and Spain welcome the encouraging results achieved within the scope of the national dialogue in Tunisia, and hope that the process of democratic transition in the country can be concluded and consolidated.

In these modernisation and reform efforts undertaken by all neighbours in the Maghreb - at both a national level and as a means to promote regional cooperation at an Arab Maghreb Union level, the European Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union can offer great assistance. The Advanced Statute for Morocco, the Framework of Privileged Relations with Tunisia and the current negotiations on a sound priority Action Plan with Algeria constitute excellent foundations on which to develop increasingly stronger and more focused cooperation between the European Union and the countries in the region. In this regard, Italy and Spain express the need for a good programme of EU funds in the period 2014-2020 in order for them to be adapted to the reform priorities expressed by our neighbours in the Maghreb and for a Maghreb approach to be fostered in regional programmes.

The growing strength of activities by the 5+5 Forum must provide a boost to political and sectoral cooperation between its participants, which should also be able to generate "Western Mediterranean" synergies to be transferred into such areas as the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Union for the Mediterranean.

Libya

Italy and Spain remain concerned by the development of the process of transition in Libya and reaffirm their determination to maintain their support for the authorities and people of Libya at this crucial stage of the path to democracy, stability and the Rule of Law. Stability in Libya is key to security throughout the Mediterranean and, within this context, Spain and Italy support and accompany the aspirations of the Libyan people for a future of peace, security and prosperity in a united Libya. Spain and Italy support the efforts to back a process of positive dialogue and reconciliation. The two countries promote and support the efforts by the United Nations and the UNSMIL to back Libya while, at the same time, call for more defined action from the EU in this field, together with the consolidation of such regional cooperation mechanisms as the 5+5 Dialogue and the Union for the Mediterranean as a means to strengthen regional cooperation and integration.

Spain and Italy express their deep concern over the dramatic consequences - in terms of loss of human life - caused by the increase in illegal migratory flows across the Mediterranean. Against this backdrop, we reiterate the call for a firmer

commitment from the entire international community to tackle the issue of migration with an integrated approach based on the respect and protection of migrant rights.

Iran

Spain and Italy welcome the agreement reached in Geneva on 24 November 2013 and continue to support the negotiation efforts of China, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Russia and the United States under the leadership of High Representative Ashton. The two countries hope that this can lead to a long-term agreement - based on the NPT - capable of enabling the exclusively peaceful goals of the Iranian nuclear programme to be guaranteed.

Spain and Italy reaffirm their support for the International Atomic Energy Agency and welcome the joint statement on cooperation between the IAEA and Iran of 11 November 2013, convinced that the positive results for both parties in the negotiation can be mutually enhanced.

Spain and Italy also highlight the need for Iran to take specific action to apply the preliminary Geneva agreements in response to the easing of sanctions adopted by the EU.

Middle East Peace Process

Italy and Spain support the current process of negotiations, recognise the determination from the Israeli and Palestinian leaders, as well as the commitment from the United States, and call for a continuation of talks so they may achieve their target within the scheduled deadline of nine months. The two countries reiterate their support for a definitive peace agreement based on the solution of two States coexisting in peace and security. They also reiterate their condemnation of all unilateral acts that could prejudice the continuation of talks.

Horn of Africa and South Sudan

Spain and Italy reaffirm the need for the EU to continue guaranteeing priority attention on the stability of and security in the Horn of Africa as an essential requirement for common action aimed at effectively tackling such cross-cutting threats as piracy, terrorism and unlawful trafficking activity originating in the Horn of Africa whose effects extend to the Sahel and Mediterranean regions - the gateway to Europe. Spain and Italy support the efforts by the international community in pursuit

of stability in Somalia and hope that the President of Somalia can add new momentum to the political dialogue with the regional authorities and the process of national reconciliation, with support from IGAD.

Spain and Italy attribute the same importance to the results of the situation in South Sudan. Within a European framework, Spain and Italy support the mediation efforts being promoted by IGAD towards reaching an immediate ceasefire and guaranteeing access by humanitarian aid to the affected population and respect for human rights. Spain and Italy also agree on the importance of finding a peaceful solution to the conflict and are committed to supporting efforts in this regard from the international community.

Sahel/Mali

Spain and Italy reiterate their common commitment to development and stability in Mali and the Sahel, which are essential to the security of Europe. The two countries will continue to support - together with the UN, the African Union, ECOWAS and the EU, those initiatives that - within the context of international law - enable a response to the emergency humanitarian and security situation, and especially efforts to combat activity by the armed gangs and extremist groups that operate in the area.

Central African Republic

Spain and Italy expressed their concern over the serious crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR) and the violence being suffered by the local population in particular. The CAR could become the epicentre for criminal trafficking and terrorist activity, thus increasing the magnitude of regional threats. The two countries support the efforts by the international community and regional organisations to achieve stability in the CAR.

Human Rights

Spain and Italy reiterate their commitment to defend and promote human rights. They reaffirm their common commitment to the abolition of the death penalty, as clearly expressed during the 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty in Madrid in June 2013. They are committed to continued efforts, together with civil society and at bilateral, regional and universal levels within the scope of the United Nations, to achieving the universal abolition of capital punishment.