

Spain-Italy Summit

JOINT DECLARATION

Moncloa Palace, 29 October 2012

Following the Spain-Italy Summit held in Madrid on 29 October 2012, the President of the Government of Spain and the President of the Council of Ministers of the Italian Republic have adopted the following joint declaration.

EUROPEAN POLICY

The European Union is a common project backed by a firm commitment from both Spain and Italy, two countries with pro-European traditions and vocations. The political and economic integration of Europe has enabled us to enjoy the longest period of peace, stability and prosperity in our history; we should join forces to continue actively contributing to this process with as much determination and ambition as possible, looking to a shared future in which well-being, development and competitiveness are common assets throughout our continent.

The agreements reached within the framework of the latest European Councils in June and October constitute significant progress in our drive towards a new Europe that is emerging out of this crisis and which will be based on the foundations of economic union, fiscal union, banking union and political union.

In this context, the European Union should tackle the series of challenges on the current European agenda urgently and as a priority, in other words:

Growth

Spain and Italy agree on the need to implement all resources available at both a European and a national level in an endeavour to stimulate quality employment, investment and economic growth within the current economic climate of fiscal consolidation and streamlining of public spending. The Growth and Employment Pact agreed at the European Council in June represents the basis on which we must work to achieve this objective. Spain and Italy, in line with the Conclusions from the European Council on 18 and 19 October, welcome the progress achieved to date in respect of the Pact and urge the necessary work to be continued, as swiftly as possible, with the aim of ensuring its full and fast application.

Eurozone

The Euro, right from its inception, has been a source of prosperity, growth and employment for the European Union as a whole. Over the last few years, Europe has taken important decisions to safeguard financial stability and foster economic recovery and job creation. We must now strengthen the architecture of the Economic and Monetary Union by implementing measures that enable the Euro to continue being a guarantee of stability and prosperity.

Spain and Italy, reiterating their commitment to the strength of the economic and institutional framework of the Euro, welcome the interim report towards a genuine economic and

monetary union presented at the latest European Council on 18 and 19 October by the Presidents of the European Council, the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the Eurogroup. They furthermore encourage the European institutions and Member States to foster the swift establishment of a genuine economic and monetary union, defining its financial, fiscal, economic and political foundations before the end of the year. This agreement should gradually but decisively combine the economic and monetary foundations of the Euro, opening the way for the future establishment of a sole system of financial support, solidarity mechanisms and pooling of risks, greater integration of economic policies and greater transparency and accountability.

Spain and Italy welcome with satisfaction the call from the European Council for the European institutions and Member States to foster a priority agreement on the regulatory framework for the Single Banking Supervisory Mechanism to become operative as from 1 January 2013, as and when the ECB can develop its operative application.

The vicious circle between banks and states needs to be broken for the sake of the stability of the Euro. Both countries urge the Eurogroup to swiftly agree on the guidelines under which the European Stability Mechanism can carry through the direct recapitalisation of European banks in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the Declaration of the Eurozone Summit on 29 June.

Multi-annual financial framework of the European Union

Spain and Italy support the objective of reaching an agreement on the Multi-annual Financial Framework for the period 2014-2020 at the European Council to be held on 22 and 23 November.

This agreement should favour growth, employment and investment, and must provide sufficient financing for the policies of the European Union, while taking into account the efforts made by Member States to clean up their public finances. The agreement to be reached in November must include not only expenditure but also revenue. In this respect, our countries recall the need for the financing of a fairer, more transparent and more equal European budget, and hence it will be necessary to revise the current system of cheques and discounts. Ensuring sufficient financing for the Common Agricultural Policy and the Cohesion Policy is also an issue of particular importance for both Spain and Italy.

Internal market

Spain and Italy welcome the progress made within the framework of the Single Market Act and call for the greatest effort possible to conclude the processing of pending proposals. They welcome the new Communication from the Commission on the Single Market Act II and urge the pertinent proposals to be presented between now and Spring 2013 and its definitive adoption within the current legislature.

European Neighbourhood Policy

The European Neighbourhood Policy has been one of the greatest successes in the foreign policy of the European Union within the present Multi-annual Financial Framework and must

continue to be so in the coming framework. Our neighbours must continue to feel that the European Union is close at hand and that it will maintain its political and financial commitments by contributing to the success of their political, economic and social modernisation. In turn, the European Union must continue to feel that it is an appreciated and priority partner for its neighbours, who must perceive that the Union shares fundamental values and principles with them. The focus of the New Neighbourhood Policy, which strengthens co-ownership and the incentive of offers, seems to us an ideal framework for meeting the objectives of preferential relationships that Article 8 of the Treaty establishing the European Union encourages the Union to establish with its neighbours. Spain and Italy are wholly convinced and seriously committed to the correct implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in its two geographical directions: to the south and to the east, and will coordinate their positions through the European Union to assist it to this end.

HOME AFFAIRS

Spain and Italy welcome the close collaboration that exists between the two countries in matters of home affairs and underline their mutual commitment to extend this cooperation.

Aware of the importance that security represents for both countries, they reaffirm the importance of continuing to extend cooperation between the public authorities of the two countries in the fight against terrorism, organised crime, drug trafficking in particular, and in the fight against illegal immigration and human trafficking, and underline the importance of operational cooperation.

As regards the fight against terrorism, Spain and Italy reassert that terrorism currently represents an international threat and its eradication is a priority, hence the necessity to promote all those coordination mechanisms that currently exist, at the same time as they welcome the high level of these relations at the present time. Within this framework, Spain is particularly grateful to Italy for its support in the fight against the terrorist group ETA. Both countries declare, furthermore, their shared concern for the current situation in the Sahel and agree on the need to include real content and specific actions in the EU Strategy for Security and Development in the Sahel in light of the growing threat to the region.

The fight against organised crime, and in particular the fight against the trafficking of psychotropic substances, is a shared priority and both countries reiterate their intention to continue intensifying their efforts to effectively detect and combat new forms of this criminal activity.

As regards the fight against illegal immigration, Spain and Italy welcome the efforts made against illegal immigration and against the actions of groups of organised criminals who traffic human beings by sea. These efforts, which are producing satisfactory results, should be acknowledged by all of the Member States of the EU as a whole by way of practical and real solidarity a shared responsibility in line with the Conclusions of the European Council in June 2011.

Both countries have decided to maintain converging positions at forums such as the G-6 or the Justice and Home Affairs Council of the European Union, which reflect the collaboration and understanding between Spain and Italy on home affairs matters.

TRADE

Bilateral relations at an economic, trade and investment level are highly intensive, as is only right for two advanced economies united in the common European project and with growing reciprocal importance. The figures for the current year reflect the current difficult economic circumstances, but also the sound and resilient nature of these bilateral relations.

Spain and Italy share and support the current focus of European trade policy as a way of stimulating growth and recovering a sustainable path to economic development that will lead to job creation and maintain levels of social wellbeing. To that end, they support the creation of an extended, balanced and ambitious trade and investment agenda, which provides our companies, particularly SMEs, with opportunities to export and invest in new markets.

In this respect, it is essential that the free trade agreements that the EU signs satisfactorily protect trade relations tied to industry and to intellectual property rights, and in particular, make progress in the protection of geographical indications beyond those agreed at a multilateral level.

INDUSTRY

Spain and Italy agree that industry is fundamental to economic recovery. The two countries therefore express their will to find and development appropriate means of collaboration in the search for synergies and support for value chains in the industrial sectors of the two countries, fostering, in particular, contracts and collaboration between business clusters. The two countries also declare their intention to promote the establishment of lines of institutional cooperation and the exchange of information from initiatives and actions developed in terms of policies on small- and medium-sized enterprises.

ENERGY

Spain and Italy confirm their commitment to a European energy policy based on the security of supply and the economic and environmental sustainability of energy systems. In this respect, the two countries are prepared to seek joint cooperation in those European initiatives in the hydrocarbon and energy infrastructure sectors that promote the effective creation of an integrated, efficient market and that enhance the competitiveness of industry and of the economy in general.

Both countries highlight the importance of close Spanish-Italian cooperation in integrating the European energy market, and as an inescapable step to promoting initiatives that enhance the process of European integration and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

TOURISM

With the aim of developing cooperation between Spain and Italy on tourism based on the equality of mutual benefit, the two countries will place special emphasis on the development

and extension of the currently existing tourism relations as a means to strengthen their respective economies and increase the reciprocal knowledge of their respective national cultures as well as to promote mutual awareness of programmes promoting tourism in the other country.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Spain and Italy acknowledge the central role that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are called to play in the economic recovery of Europe, being a key source of innovation and of new business opportunities. The Member States of the European Union must join forces to fully implement the Digital Agenda, situating Europe on a fast track to growth and increasing its global competitiveness in the digital economy, fundamentally in regard to ultra high-speed networks, dissemination of knowledge online and the distribution of goods and services online.

FOREIGN POLICY

Euro-Mediterranean cooperation

Spain and Italy welcome the results from the recent 5+5 Dialogue Summit which sent a message of support to the political reform processes taking place on the southern shores of the Mediterranean. This will provide a new boost to the Western Mediterranean Forum through the establishment of synergies with the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Union for the Mediterranean. Regional cooperation between the EU and Mediterranean partners continues to be an essential instrument for promoting the necessary South-South integration in which the Union for the Mediterranean must play a central role.

Sahel/Mali

Spain and Italy share a concern for the extremely serious situation of the threat to the Sahel. Stability in the region is essential, not only for the people of Mali and the other countries in the region, but also for the security of Europe. We cannot accept the establishment of terrorist groups in the region nor other organised crime activities. Our two countries will continue supporting, as they have done to date, all initiatives that enable Mali – together with the United Nations, the AU, ECOWAS and the EU – to respond to this security emergency within the framework of international legality.

Syria

Spain and Italy express their outright condemnation of the escalation of violence in Syria, the savage repression and the massacres perpetrated in this country. The suffering of the Syrian people must be brought to an end. We support the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people and of a free, democratic Syria that is respectful of human rights and minority peoples, and we believe that there is no place for Bashar al-Assad in the future Syria. Our two countries reiterate our support for the efforts of the special envoy to the United Nations Secretary-General and to the Arab League, Mr Brahimi.

Lebanon

Spain and Italy view with concern the efforts to export the Syrian crisis to Lebanon and reassert their firm support to the Lebanese institutions as well as their mutual commitment to the stability of Lebanon and the region as a whole.

Freedom of religion and protection of minority religions

Spain and Italy reiterate their commitment to guaranteeing the right of individuals and communities to religious freedom at international forums. Both parties agree to coordinate their positions to defend and achieve this objective.