



Speech in the Spanish Congress

Fernández Currás states that the 2013 Budget considers the most vulnerable with social sector spending of 63.6%

- The State Secretary for Budgets and Public Spending states that the intention of the Government is still to prioritise spending on pensions and its education, healthcare, and research, development and innovation policies
- She considers that to increase confidence in Spain, we must contain debt and recover growth, the decisive criteria when designing the 2013 budget

4 October 2012. The State Secretary for Budgets and Public Spending, Marta Fernández Currás, began the session of senior government presentations of the 2013 State Budget Proposal, saying that this is another step forward on the route chosen by the Government, with many measures designed to stimulate economic production, thus making the Spanish economy more competitive and able to grow and create jobs.

The State Secretary added that the 2013 Budget alone cannot achieve this goal, and so it will be accompanied by 43 structural reforms.

Currás stated firmly that next year's Budget is designed to protect the most vulnerable, as demonstrated by the fact that 63.6% of the total will cover social spending, which can in no case be understood as a waste of resources. "Paying unemployment benefit, pensions or debt repayments" is never a waste of resources, the State Secretary affirmed.

At a time of significant budget adjustments, "it is the Government's intention to continue prioritising social expenditure, especially pensions",

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said the State Secretary. At the same time, education, healthcare, research, development and innovation policies will also be prioritised.

She went on to say that the design of the 2013 Budget is not only dictated by the current economic situation, but is needed to offer Spanish society a lasting reform project which can be built upon, "which will take action now to guarantee our future, the future of the Spanish economy and the welfare of its citizens in the shorter rather than the longer term", said the State Secretary.

The programme of structural reforms already begun by the Government have five main lines of action. The first is fiscal consolidation, the second is nationwide structural reform, the third is the structural reform and integration of markets at the regional level, the fourth is financial stability, and the fifth and last, which can be defined as more Europe.

For Fernández Currás the two words shaping the design and direction of the 2013 Budget are project and commitment. The Budget involves an ambitious and detailed plan for changes to Spain's economic policy that are urgently needed, considering this to be the time to give the people of Spain and international economic players the confidence of knowing the steps which must be taken, first in order to make adjustments, and then to begin on the path to recovery.

For confidence in Spain to return, "containing debt and recovering growth will be crucial, decisive criteria when designing the budget," said Fernández Currás.

The State Secretary affirmed that the reforms which the Government began to introduce last December and the content of the 2013 Budget are the product of the difficult financial circumstances we are currently experiencing, and so the question now should not be "where shall we take Spain?" but rather, "where shall we bring it back to?"

She indicated that in the 2013 Budget, the Government has taken measures to contain spending and increase income, which will enable it to follow the established path to consolidation, so that as well as halting the rise of public debt, resources will be freed up which can be channelled towards investment and reactivating the economy.