



Meeting of the Civil Service Committee

Beteta estimates that 6.315 billion euros can be saved from the public employment measures

11 July 2012. The Secretary of State for Public Administrations, Antonio Beteta, today chaired the General Negotiation Committees with the representatives of the trades unions and the regional governments to discuss the upcoming changes in public sector employment regulations announced this morning by the President, Mariano Rajoy, in the Spanish Congress.

The Minister of Finance and Public Administrations expressed his regret that the trades union representatives have chosen not to attend the meeting and were unable to hear the explanations he had prepared, and would have to be informed via the minutes of the meeting and the text of the Royal Decree. A few minutes before the meeting, Beteta met the trades union representatives, who presented their demands and their intention not to attend the committees called by the Administration.

During his speech, Beteta explained that the principal reforms will generate savings of 6.315 billion euros a year in costs, including:

- **Reduction in the number of free days**, so that all Administrations will have the same number of working days. This measure would mean an estimated saving of at least 107 million euros in the General State Administration, 340 million in the Autonomous Regions and 93 million with local authorities.
- **Adjustment in the number of '*liberados sindicales*' (union staff on company payrolls) in strict accordance with the law:** Exercising the right to representation will follow the rulings of the Workers' Statute, the Organic Law on the Freedom of Association and the Basic Statute of Public Employees. This measure would generate savings in

general terms of 50 million euros in the General State Administration, 159 million in the Autonomous Regions and 43 million in local authorities.

- **Steps to bring the temporary incapacity conditions of public employees into line with those of other workers:** The Secretary of State reported that the intention is to standardise Social Security compensation for temporary incapacity across all public employees, for which some regional governments have already established measures for those belonging to the Special Scheme (MUFACE and other special schemes in government mutual societies), therefore bringing the scheme for public employees into line with the general conditions in the private sector. Naturally, situations such as hospitalisation, surgery or other exceptional circumstances which may require different arrangements will be taken into account.
- **Facilitating the restructuring of public employees:** Beteta clarified that this is a measure to streamline and reorganise human resources in public administrations, reassigning them internally in a more efficient way.
- **Christmas bonus:** Beteta stated that this would be an exceptional measure, applicable in 2012 only, and that in future years these amounts could be allocated for pension plan contributions, as long as the stability targets were met, and within the terms and scope of the relevant Budgetary Law, where applicable.