



Council of Ministers

A committee is created for government reform

26 October 2012. Within the Government Reform Programme, an essential part regards the reform of the organs of government. Spain needs austere and efficient government bodies which will be a competitive advantage for the country. This means there is a need to rationalise structures, procedures and resources. This need is met by the Organic Law on Budget Stability and Financial Sustainability, which constitutes a milestone in the management of public resources, as it establishes specific targets for spending and debt for all government bodies, and the obligation to present plans for its compliance and appropriate mechanisms to ensure this is achieved.

As well as the need to carry out a full study of administrative reform, two mandates must be followed:

At the last Conference of Presidents of the Autonomous Regions an agreement was made to create a Work Group in the corresponding Sectorial Conference, which would draw up a programme to rationalise administration in order to eliminate bureaucracy, simplify regulations and procedures, and avoid redundancy.

The Application Programme of the Liquidity Fund for the Autonomous Regions provides for the creation within the Fiscal and Financial Policy Council of a work group to agree on a code of best practices to rationalise spending and increase savings.

This requires a full study to give both work groups concrete proposals, with an integrated approach to government reform.

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Assignment, composition and functions

The committee is assigned to the Ministry of Finance and Public Administrations, through the State Secretary for Public Administrations. It will be chaired by the deputy secretary of the Presidency department, the deputy chair will be the deputy secretary for Finance and Public Administrations, and the secretary will be the director general of Coordination of Competencies with the Autonomous Regions and Local Authorities.

The following persons will be members of the committee:

- A representative of each ministerial department, with the minimum rank of Director General.
- A representative of the Economic Office of the Presidency of the Government.
- A representative of the Cabinet of the Presidency of the Government.
- A representative of the Cabinet of the Vice-President of the Government and Minister of the Presidency.
- When appropriate for the subjects under discussion, and by invitation from the chair of the Committee, the heads of other General State Administration bodies may attend the meetings, with voice but no vote.

Sub-committees

The Committee will create Sub-committees as it deems appropriate, with the composition and functions it determines. The following Sub-committees must be created:

- **Redundancy in administrations.** Its mission is to identify and eliminate redundancy and strengthen cooperation mechanisms, thus reducing the cost of government activity. Insofar as the competencies attributed to Local Government are already being reformed in a bill to modify their Framework Law, the redundancies to be identified in this study are the overlaps between the General State Administration and the Regional Administrations.
- **Simplification of administration.** This will review the bureaucratic red tape which slows the progress of administrative procedures, in order to

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simplify these processes for the benefit of the general public. In particular, it will seek information on the procedures which to be effective require the participation of other Government Bodies, such as the creation of companies. This will incorporate current projects of the Directorate General of Administrative Modernisation.

- **Management of shared services and resources.** This will centralise management activities which, as they are similar or of the same type, can be carried out by single or coordinated bodies, making better use of public resources. In this group it is fundamental to study the successful models in use in Spanish business groups, which will provide information and help.
- **Institutional administration.** This will analyse the different types of entities making up the institutions, and review the regulatory framework and the models identified as optimal. It will propose changes to the list of existing entities, for which the ministerial departments must present information and the relevant proposals.

The sub-committees will work on a permanent basis, and may call on other government personnel and representatives of the private sector. They will report regularly to the plenary Committee on the progress of their work.

When it finishes its tasks, the Plenary Committee will bring the proposals to the Ministry of Finance and Public Administrations for referral to the Council of Ministers and the groups set out in the agreement of the Conference of Presidents. The committee will have until 30 June 2013 to complete its work.

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