



# Join the change

**100 proposals for change.**

This document is a **summary** of the political program that Partido Popular will use as a platform for the November 20<sup>th</sup> elections

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## More society, better government

In this document the Popular Party (Partido Popular) presents some of the main proposals that make up our commitment to the Spanish society. We know that it will not be easy and there are no short cuts. But we are prepared for the job and we have the enthusiasm, courage and capacity to make a right start and work towards the kind of Spain we all need.

The Popular Party's reform agenda is the instrument for change that Spain needs. This agenda forms the core of our political program and is divided into six key elements.

- Economic growth and job creation. We have to lay the foundations for a more competitive economy so that we can restore confidence and once more make Spain the best place to invest and create jobs.
- Better education. This is the key for an opportunity society. We cannot give up on generations of Spanish people.
- The Welfare State and social protection must be guaranteed through reforms that safeguard the benefits of future generations. Health and education for all is our priority.
- The public sector must be reformed and modernised based on principles of austerity, transparency and efficiency.
- Institutional strength and political regeneration. We need reliable and consistent institutions, returning to respect for the law and legal security.
- The image and influence of our country abroad. We must restore our trustworthiness and credibility in the world. We have to take advantage of the opportunities that globalisation can offer our society.

The program offered by the Popular Party to the people of Spain is both serious and credible. It is a realistic and ambitious program that can allow Spain to grow and become a prosperous country once more. With this program we will overcome the crisis, open up the government to the people and make lasting reforms.

What we must aim for is more society and better government. This is what Spain needs.

Spain has future. The people of Spain have the solution. And that is why we are asking for a mandate for reform. That is why we are announcing a major project that incorporates economic recovery, institutional regeneration and international prestige.



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## Stability and reforms to create jobs

The Popular Party's project offers hope where the key elements of job creation and opportunities, fairness, social mobility and commitment to welfare can be used to tackle the essential economic reforms that Spain needs in order to recover the path to prosperity, with a guarantee of success.

The Spanish economy needs to see a horizon of certainty. Our project places trust in the possibilities of the Spanish society, which has always given its best when it has worked together on major tasks.

We will give society the leading role in this process and free its potential. Job creation will be fundamental. People must become masters of their own destiny and of the new areas of freedom opened up to them.

The Popular Party's economic policy will enable the people of Spain to compete successfully in the global knowledge economy.

We promise to adopt and fully comply with the commitments to stability with respect to the other partners of the single currency in exemplary fashion. Only in this way can Spain recover its maximum credit quality and Spanish entrepreneurs can access finance under conditions that are comparable to those of the most prosperous and credible nations of Europe. Spain and the euro will once more be the best platform for companies and workers to expand into the world with confidence, backed by a secure and reliable institutional framework.

Stability and reforms will form the bases of the new economic model that will reassign productive resources effectively between companies and sectors and thus make it easier for entrepreneurs and workers to find new opportunities.

The recovery of the Spanish economic growth potential through a full agenda of reforms that modify the country's economic structures will be the priority of a new policy that is committed to welfare. More growth without imbalances will improve expectations for the future, generate confidence and boost a virtuous cycle of growth and employment. This is what Spanish people need, above all that generation of young people who today have been driven from the labour market.



## 1.1. Spain, competitive in the euro

- 01.** We will present a complete and coherent plan of structural reforms to stabilise the budget, restructure the financial sector, liberalise the economy, reform the labour market and boost competitiveness. We will provide a clear and positive framework with objectives, means and actions to enable Spain to succeed in the euro.
- 02.** In our first year, we will carry out a general review of expenses across the entire government, so that priorities can be established within the general policy of austerity, while at the same time avoiding overlaps.
- 03.** We will set up a specific legal and institutional framework to guarantee the unity of the market, establish its guiding principles and scope of application and implement the inter-territorial mechanism for solving conflicts to ensure economic freedom, promote competition and guarantee equal access to goods and services throughout Spain.
- 04.** We will develop a general plan to improve the image of Spain as a brand that will provide exporters and investors with the image of a country of excellence in all areas.

## 1.2. Order in the public accounts

- 05.** We will introduce a new organic law for budget stability to implement the recent constitutional reform. The law will establish the mechanisms for participation by the Fiscal and Financial Policy Council. We will define the procedures for distributing deficit and debt limits between the different levels of government, determining exceptional cases, the form and periods set for correcting overruns and liabilities derived from non-compliance.
- 06.** We will carry out an austerity plan that will commit all the levels of government, eliminate superfluous expenditure and duplication and introduce incentives to increase efficiency. We will rationalise and if necessary eliminate such bodies, public institutions and agencies whose functions may be assumed by the government without negatively affecting the work they carry out. We will define a comprehensive policy for managing the real estate assets and rentals of all levels of government.
- 07.** We will reinforce the liabilities and sanctions imposed on public administrators who breach the rules of budget stability.

## 1.3. Credit to finance recovery

- 08.** We will complete the provisioning and restructuring of the financial system. In doing so, we will provide assistance in the active management of impaired assets for financial institutions that require it. These assets will be placed on the market under criteria of transparency, market price and independent supervision.
- 09.** We will boost non-banking mechanisms in order to provide business finance. We will encourage the development of capital markets by modernising and improving the efficiency of their infrastructures and by promoting long-term and pension savings. We will encourage the development of mechanisms such as business angels, seed capital and private equity as ways of participating in business capital.



## 1.4. Secure and flexible employment for all

10. We will implement a comprehensive reform of the labour market as a response to the unprecedented social trauma suffered by a country having five million unemployed. This comprehensive reform will represent a coherent and coordinated change in employment contracts, collective bargaining, the system of industrial relations, job-based training and employment intermediation.
11. We will simplify the range of employment contracts to reduce the rate of temporary employment and increase stability, flexibility and security for all workers and companies.
12. We will reform the structure and content of collective bargaining so that each question is negotiated in the appropriate territory or sector to ensure economic competitiveness, sustainability of employment and market unity. Company-based agreements or pacts between employers and workers will have preference when it comes to wages and working conditions.

## 1.5. More entrepreneurs for job creation

13. We will modify the VAT regime in accordance with European legislation so that the self-employed and SMEs do not have to pay VAT until they have actually received payment for the corresponding invoices. We will create a flexible and effective mechanism to offset the tax debt of SMEs and the self-employed against the amounts they have recognised and pending payment from the same government agency.
14. We will introduce a new law to support entrepreneurs as a way of encouraging new business initiatives and developing activity by SMEs and the self-employed.
15. We will approve tax support worth 3,000 euros for the recruitment of the first worker without the status of partner in a newly created company. We will apply deductions to social security contributions for self-employed company owners who recruit their first worker who does not have the status of partner.

## 1.6. Tax reform for growth and equity

16. We will modernise income tax to encourage saving, investment and employment. We will promote long-term saving through a new income-tax allowance for annual increases in savings, which includes the acquisition of a primary residence. We will improve the tax regime applied to contributions to pension plans. We will increase the minimum family allowance for income tax by adapting it better to the circumstances of taxpayers, particularly in relation to large families.
17. Regarding corporate tax we will make the application of the reduced tax rate of 20 per cent in general for all small companies, and we will extend the scope of the 25 per cent tax rate. We will simplify the system of allowances.



## 1.7. Quality energy to boost the economy

18. We will develop an energy policy that guarantees supply, competitiveness, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. We will ensure a balanced energy mix that takes into account all the existing sources of energy and the available capacity.
19. We will promote the development and deployment of intelligent electrical networks and domestic appliances that can manage demand voluntarily through the supply of information on consumption in real time.

## 1.8. Innovation for employment

20. We will update the structure of tax incentives to boost business R&D investment, with preference to start-ups, innovative SMEs and priority sectors such as health, energy and transport, in accordance with the best practices in Europe. We will encourage sponsorship.
21. We will strengthen the legal framework that protects intellectual and industrial property.
22. We will provide firm support for technological centers, technological innovation support centers and scientific and technological parks as a way of improving company competitiveness, boosting the generation of technological knowledge and carrying out and applying R&D+i activities. We will re-establish the specific programmes for strategic R&D, cooperation between centers and participation in European programmes.

## 1.9. New technologies for modernisation

23. We will abolish the digital fee and replace it by new models for managing and remunerating intellectual property that are more just and fair, based on the actual use of such works.
24. We will boost the extension of the new-generation networks, both fixed and mobile, and the development of new services based on them. We will aim to eliminate legal and administrative barriers to the deployment of these infrastructures.

## 1.10. The infrastructures we need

25. We will develop new platforms for connection and interaction between different transportation modes and connect ports that are of general interest with multimodal corridors, in particular connecting ports that form part of coastal highways to freight rail corridors. The aim is for Spanish ports to become true inter-modal logistical centres that connect with the entire world. We will develop a high-speed rail network that is modern, sustainable and efficient, and designed to be connected to the airport network.
26. We will regulate the obligation on all levels of government to eliminate black accident spots on those stretches of road that have been identified as high-risk. We will



improve active and passive safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists on our road network, improve signposting and extend the use of appropriate protective barriers.

## **1.11. Housing policy for growth and cohesion**

- 27.** We will temporarily apply a super-reduced VAT rate towards the purchase of primary residences. We will update the income-tax allowance for the purchase of a house.
- 28.** We will reform the law on insolvency to introduce mechanisms freeing debtors after the enforcement of their assets that can be attached, with due guarantees, to prevent abusive behaviour.
- 29.** We will focus housing rental plans on people who have the greatest difficulties in accessing housing, bearing in mind objective criteria such as household income per capita. We will boost subsidised rental programmes with a purchase option once individuals no longer meet the criteria for access to subsidised housing.

## **1.12. Spain, a global tourism power**

- 30.** We will present a comprehensive plan for tourism, which values the industry as a priority. It will improve its tax treatment and develop policies that cut across all ministries involved in the sector. This will involve collaboration with the autonomous regions and the participation of the private sector.
- 31.** We will boost the image of Spain as a quality tourist destination by modernising and improving the network of tourist offices in Spain and abroad. We will promote the holding of major cultural and sporting events in Spain. We will boost the Spain brand as a model of quality tourism.

## **1.13. A competitive agricultural and structured food sector**

- 32.** We will promote the entry of young people into the agricultural industry to counter the move away from the country and the ageing rural population, as well as to assist in the generational change. We will boost the effective participation of women in agricultural management.
- 33.** We will draw up a national strategy for the application and defence of the new CAP. We will promote the internationalisation of the Spanish agriculture and food sector by promoting the industry and supporting our gastronomy at a European level and further afield.





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## **1.14. Sustainable fisheries with a future**

- 34.** We will update the law to adapt it to the new Common Fisheries Policy and its management and regulation criteria, so that it can manage the rationalisation of the fleet effectively, rigorously and permanently. We will introduce legislative measures aimed at dissuading illegal fishing.
- 35.** We will promote international collaboration in the fight against piracy and improve the means and measures available to do so.

## **1.15. Industry as a factor for competitiveness**

- 36.** We will undertake the structural reforms required so that Spanish companies do not have to face more expensive capital and production costs than their competitors.
- 37.** We will boost the development of the Spanish industry with actions designed to encourage innovation and business growth, increase exports and simplify the regulatory framework.





## Education: a path of opportunities

The measures we are presenting under this program aim to guarantee more demanding academic standards, the recognition of effort and merit, mastery of English at the end of the compulsory period of education, and the autonomy of educational centers on an accountable basis. Only a quality educational system can provide real equality of opportunities so that each student can achieve his or her full potential. Equal opportunities also mean that we must develop measures and programmes for students with special educational needs. Our aim is for no student to be left behind.

The core element in a quality educational system is the teaching staff. Their prestige and authority have been undermined under the current model. Moreover, new realities require an improvement in their selection and training process. The model of access to the teaching career must emphasise its national nature.

The educational system has to take families into account and trust in the decisions they take. We are committed to state education of quality and a plural education based on social initiatives that can respond to the preferences shown by families, whether in terms of belief or educational model.

Vocational education has to become a powerful tool for the employment of young people. We want vocational education to be closely linked to the world of business, by combining training at the educational center with work within companies. It must also respond to the real demands of the labour market.

Secondary education of quality also creates incentives for quality in universities. There are many aspects to be improved upon in our universities. New models of results-based finance are needed, together with a system of government that guarantees better management and accountability.

Research, innovation and knowledge transfer are essential elements in a competitive and advanced economy. The level achieved in basic research demands aspiration to higher levels of excellence. Universities must operate as real factories producing knowledge for the Spanish society. If this is to be the case, we must enhance mobility, internationalisation and assessment of results.



## 2.1. Quality education for all

- 38.** We will improve the compulsory and free level of education lasting until 16 years of age, and reform its structure to reduce the school drop-out rate and improve the schooling of students. Secondary education will have a more flexible organisation that offers educational pathways that match the interests, motivation and progress made by students. The post-compulsory Baccalaureate level will consist of 3 years, the first of which will take the form of initiation.
- 39.** We will implement a new model of nationwide selection and training for access to the teaching profession to attract the best academically qualified students, and take into account merit and skills as selection criteria. Teachers will be recognised by law as public authorities while at work and be provided with more incentives.
- 40.** We will promote bilingual education in Spanish and English throughout the educational system, starting in the second year of infant education. We will boost the teaching of a second foreign language. We will provide the option of trilingual education in autonomous regions with a co-official language, until the end of the Baccalaureate.

## 2.2. Vocational training for employment

- 41.** We will set up a new form of vocational training sandwich course that gives young people their first experience of work within the training process. We will set up an ambitious programme of “wage grants”.
- 42.** We will restore training to its position as the main active employment policy. We will adapt training given to unemployed people to best meet labour market needs. We will take advantage of all the technological opportunities to favour distance vocational training, and specifically for certificates of professional competence. We will adapt training to the needs of people with disabilities.
- 43.** We will promote the right of individuals to continuous training and the right of workers to retraining throughout their working life by creating a training bond, opening up the training available and by a rigorous evaluation of the effectiveness of active employment policies.

## 2.3. Universities of excellence

- 44.** We will establish a sufficient, stable and transparent general framework for financing universities that encourages specialisation and excellence, recognises teaching and research results and makes it easier for students to enter the labour market. We will open up space for patronage, sponsorship and collaboration with social initiatives.
- 45.** We will aim to provide universities, their professors and students with a more international outreach. We will promote the exchange of teaching staff, teaching of graduate and postgraduate degrees in English, and joint degrees with foreign universities.
- 46.** We will encourage a system of grants that boosts excellence and equal opportunities in university studies, as a key factor for the success of society. We will improve



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coordination within the university system so that it operates as a single area covering the whole of Spain. We will support student mobility programmes within the framework of the European Higher Education Area.

## **2.4. New frontiers for science and knowledge**

- 47.** We will offer society a national map of scientific and technological resources and make the capacities and results of each of the public research agents better known.
- 48.** We will update the structure of tax incentives to boost business R&D, with preference being given to start-ups, innovative SMEs and the most strategic sectors (health, energy, transport).



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## Committed to welfare

Now is the time for society. We place trust in the people. Everyone is responsible when it comes to emerging from the crisis, as we all have to adapt and give the best of ourselves to construct a better future. We need more society and better government.

Our main aim in social policy is to guarantee the Welfare State. In recent years doubts have been raised about the whether the health system can be sustained, whether the pension system is viable, and whether the basic principles of our Welfare State can be maintained. The Popular Party undertakes to preserve the universal character and quality of the public services that make up the Welfare State. We will undertake a serious programme of reforms to make it more efficient and ensure its sustainability.

We are committed to a quality public health system that is accessible equally to all Spanish people, and that is efficient and sustainable. We will make patients the core of the system. Furthermore the responsibility of the healthcare professionals will be the leverage for efficiency.

We reaffirm our commitment to creating an inclusive society with opportunities for all. We will boost the work of social initiatives in caring for the most disadvantaged people and create cross-cutting policies that combat social exclusion and poverty, while gaining in flexibility, social participation, coordination and transparency.

We want to involve families in giving back the importance to society, in improving education and transmitting values to our children. For families to develop their invaluable work of social cohesion they must have the firm backing of government.

Our policies for equality will be designed so that men and women can organise their personal projects and family responsibilities with freedom.

We will support the new role of the elderly not only in families but within society as a whole. We must eliminate all job discrimination and extend the scope of social services where they can be of use, while promoting a more flexible pensions system. The Popular Party is committed to maintaining the purchasing power of pensions.

We will design a cross-cutting strategy as the best formula for making effective the personal autonomy of people with disabilities.



## 3.1. The family: the first Welfare State

49. We will approve a comprehensive plan to support families, designed basically to promote the measures that make it easier to balance work and family life.
50. We will intensify the fight against Internet crime, with particular emphasis on the protection of children. We will reduce children's exposure to content of a sexual or violent nature. We will guarantee the protection of minors in the audiovisual media, and demand strict compliance with the broadcasting hours designed to protect children. We will fight to put a stop to irresponsible marketing aimed at children.
51. Maternity must be protected and supported. We will introduce a law to protect maternity with measures to support pregnant women, particularly those who are facing a difficult situation. We will promote support networks for maternity. We will change the current legislative model on abortion to provide more protection for the right to life, as well as of minors.

## 3.2. Prioritising health

52. We will adopt measures to guarantee universal access to quality health benefits. We will establish a portfolio of basic common services in the national health system. We will include any innovations that represent a real improvement in the treatment of illnesses. We will undertake the reforms required to improve access, eliminate bureaucracy and increase management efficiency.
53. We will promote the health card, electronic clinical history and the single, shared and inter-operable electronic prescription so that all available information on the patient is accessible from any health centre in Spain. We will promote computer platforms to ensure that patients can receive individual information and treatment for their illnesses while fully guaranteeing their privacy. We will boost a single vaccination calendar that is common to all the autonomous regions.

## 3.3. The welfare of our elderly

54. We will establish a charter for the elderly that will include principles such as non-discrimination, promotion of personal autonomy, active participation by the elderly in our society and the free choice of health and social services.
55. The Popular Party is committed to maintaining the spending power of pensions. We will encourage the system by which people can receive part of their pension while continuing to work productively. We will try to ensure that the pension is more proportional to the contributions actually paid throughout the working life. We will introduce greater transparency in pensions and give clearer information about expectations of the future pension through an annual personal report.
56. We will prosecute bad practices and situations in which the trust of elderly people is abused in the family, business, finance and care services.



## 3.4. Real equality

57. We will pass a comprehensive plan to support the balance between work, personal and family life for men and women. Its main aim will be to eliminate obstacles that limit this balance. We will provide tax incentives for companies that create crèches in their work places. We will promote a more flexible working and school timetable, as well as measures to promote telework.
58. We will give workers more flexibility in the time they have for their own affairs by creating a pool of hours that can be freely distributed.
59. We will fight effectively against gender violence and improve the legislation now in force to adapt it to the current situation and reinforce protection mechanisms. We will include minors within the scope of the law's protection.

## 3.5. More personal autonomy

60. We will improve the tax treatment of the protected assets of people with disabilities.
61. We will guarantee access by people with disabilities to the educational system at all its stages. We will strengthen the mechanisms that allow access to infant education.

## 3.6. Integration: same rights, same obligations

62. We will encourage legal and orderly immigration linked to employment and put an end to mass regularisation. We will fight against mafias and the trafficking of humans. We will always guarantee respect for human rights and the dignity of people, regardless of their legal or administrative situation.
63. Children and young people from other countries will be integrated as quickly as possible into the educational system through special programmes and adaptation classes. We will boost programmes teaching Spanish, as well as the co-official languages, as a basic tool for integration.

## 3.7. Fair play

64. We will promote grass-roots sports by defining a legal framework adapted to the activities of sporting associations.
65. We will demonstrate the value of sport's contribution to society in creating employment and economic growth and in regenerating rundown areas. We will boost the commercial sponsorship of sport.

## 3.8. Culture: creation, freedom and heritage

66. We will boost patronage so that individuals and companies can get involved in financing and promoting culture, and gradually replace the current subsidy-based model.



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- 67.** We will pay particular attention to the changes that the Internet is bringing to the cultural industry and promote the ongoing transitions within this new globalising framework.

### **3.9. Respect for the environment**

- 68.** We will assume the commitment of increasing our forest area as a means of fixing more CO<sub>2</sub> and contributing to the fight against climate change. We will boost the development of the forestry sector through preventive and clearing measures against forest fires. We will encourage the use of biomass, and in coordination with the autonomous regions and forest owners, promote the sustainable management and use of forests.
- 69.** We will encourage individuals to be responsible for the environment, the conservation of nature, preservation of biodiversity and concern for wild animals.





## Government: the motor for change

In the globalised world the quality of our legal system and the efficiency of our institutions make up a powerful factor affecting competitiveness. They must be an integral part in guiding our strategy for economic growth.

Austerity, transparency and responsibility in the administration of public resources must be the core principles behind all reforms.

The transformation that all levels of government are undergoing must aim for three clear objectives: more efficient provision of public services; more efficient participation by the private sector in the provision of these services; and greater answerability backed up by full transparency.

An impartial and quality civil service is essential for the proper operation of a modern state. It requires a new, modern policy of human resources based on professionalism and the principles of merit and capacity.

Our system of budgeting, execution and spending control must be reformed. This should be accompanied by effective systems for measuring the results obtained against the resources used.

Progress in implementing a real e-government continues to offer a wealth of new opportunities, not only by offering a better service to the public, but also through the opportunity for significant reductions in public spending.

A modern state must guarantee values of certainty, legal security and legal trust. Some principles must be fully accepted in regulations: realistic objectives and time horizons; properly defined competences; a reduction in discretionary awards; transparency in the decision-making processes; transparent regulatory dialogue between the authorities and interested parties; flexibility; adaptability; minimum intervention; and full respect for market mechanisms. We need clear, precise, stable and easily applicable laws, regardless of their origin.

All the reforms must be applied to all existing layers of government in Spain. Decentralisation is a powerful instrument for bringing the political decision-making centers closer to the people, but it can only be efficient if it is properly organised. Using the advantages involved in political and administrative decentralisation requires the rigorous tackling of many of the problems which have so far been ignored.



## 4.1. Transparency

70. We will immediately approve a law on transparency, access to public information and good governance, in accordance with the principles inspiring the European Convention on Access to Official Documents. The law will tackle transparency from a comprehensive perspective as the right of citizens and a basic principle for action by all the public administrations. It will guarantee in a balanced fashion the right to the protection of personal data against the safeguard of general interests.
71. We will standardise the remuneration of elected local officials, taking into account the size of municipalities, the socioeconomic circumstances in the area and the economic resources administered.

## 4.2. Austerity, evaluation and control

72. We will tackle the rationalisation of administrative structures and costs. We will reduce the number of senior officials, temporary staff and current spending. We will use official vehicles more efficiently.
73. We will require the budgets of all levels of government to distinguish expenses that correspond to basic public services from those that do not. This will give people a precise idea of the resources allocated to essential functions.

## 4.3. A new public sector

74. We will create a basic national catalogue of essential public services to guarantee equality between all the people of Spain. We will encourage the use of external quality certificates to guarantee the highest standards in the public services provided for people.
75. We will reduce the number of bodies and organisations in the public sector to ensure more transparent and efficient management. We will eliminate all those bodies that do not respond to economic or administrative need, reduce transparency or legal guarantees, or whose activity may be carried out by government with the means already at its disposal.

## 4.4. Autonomous regions committed to the general interest

76. We will define with greater precision the competences of each of the levels of government and avoid unnecessary overlapping, the proliferation of bureaucratic structures and the excessive increase of staff.
77. We will develop indicators to evaluate and exchange information that allow the public to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the different levels of government in providing public services.



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## 4.5. Councils for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

- 78.** We will pass a new basic law of local government and administration that will be based on the full respect for the autonomy of local bodies. It will assign powers to these administrations with greater precision and provide them with more appropriate instruments for their management. We will pass this law in parallel with the new model of local government funding.
- 79.** We will promote the voluntary grouping together of municipalities, taking into account their organisational and financial capacity, to ensure the optimum provision of services.



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## An exemplary democracy

The democratic system is based on action by the public authorities acting under the law and through defined institutions in which the public power is deposited. The dynamism of democratic life, the strength and credibility of the commitment that links representatives to the represented, is based on the correct operation of the institutions.

A major effort of discussion and reform is required to offer lasting solutions to the demands of an advanced democratic society. No one should feel or indeed be excluded from this increasingly diverse society. Everyone enjoys the same rights and duties with full respect for the Constitution and the law.

The Popular Party extends the idea of regeneration to all the aspects of its manifesto. All its actions in government will respond to this idea.

We believe in politics as a commitment. The Popular Party aims to embody this commitment to the future of Spain in its proposal for a shared project of social and economic progress.

We need to strengthen the democratic institutions and restore the fabric of confidence without which no society can face the challenges such as those we have to overcome today. Spanish people can and must overcome these challenges.

Exemplary behaviour and transparency are essential in the activities of those who assume public responsibility, both at the personal and institutional level. The Popular Party is committed to promoting transparency, austerity and rigour and to fighting corruption in politics and in all public administrations.

A contradictory and excessive legal system dependent on arbitrary legal impulses is an insurmountable drag on the credit of a society. We need a consistent legal framework with effective laws applied by institutions and bodies that guarantee qualification and transparency. A stable environment that inspires trust makes possible the best initiatives and most effective projects.

We must reaffirm the value of the Constitution as the product of a great political pact and reconciliation between the Spanish people. It is in this agreement, and within the framework defined and guaranteed by the Constitution, that the Spanish people have achieved our greatest successes.



## 5.1. Political and institutional regeneration

- 80.** We will promote political actions and agreements that favour understanding and concord between all the people of Spain, focused on our Constitutional values, and in a sincere dialogue-based approach.
- 81.** We will revitalise Parliament by making the debate procedures and activity of the members of parliament and senators more adaptable. We will recognise the right of the opposition to post initiatives without the arbitrary and abusive use of vetoes, as has occurred in recent years. We will restore the Constitutional use of the Decree-Law. The members of the government will present a plan of objectives at the start of their period in office, which will be updated annually.

## 5.2. Flexible and consistent justice

- 82.** We will change the model of the judicial system to make it effective, accessible and transparent for people involved in legal action, and ensure a unified management by all jurisdictional bodies. We will create an agency to organise a single computerised system that provides immediate online information on judicial matters and of those that are in public records related to the administration of justice.
- 83.** We will reform the penal system in the Criminal Code. We will introduce a life sentence subject to review, the possibility of applying post-sentence security measures, reduction of prison sentences calculated on the basis of each of the sentences imposed, and a new regulation for repeat offenders.
- 84.** We will strengthen the function of the Supreme Court as an appellate court for legal review.

## 5.3. The prestige of the Constitutional Court

- 85.** We will modify the procedure for the election of judges to the Constitutional Court to prevent it from taking undue time.
- 86.** We will re-establish the system of appeal on constitutional grounds prior to proceedings involving the reform of the autonomous regions' charters. Appeals for the guarantee of fundamental rights will be limited to the ordinary courts and we will reserve the Constitutional Court for the exercise of its powers in cases of constitutional interest under law.

## 5.4. A more secure Spain

- 87.** We will introduce a plan for rural security to fight against robberies in farms, and increase surveillance and control by drawing up maps of crimes, toughening sentences for theft and boosting the deployment of the Civil Guard.
- 88.** Those committing vandalism will be liable to payment for the repair of the damage caused in public spaces. We will toughen the liability that parents or legal guardians are subject to in cases of minors.



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## 5.5. The defeat of terrorism

- 89.** We will not negotiate with terrorists, whether under threat of violence or by the announcement of the end to such violence. This will be a basic principle of state security policy.
- 90.** We will encourage the recognition and remembrance of victims, and support initiatives from civil society to this end.



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## **European policy and influence abroad**

Spain needs a foreign policy that is a faithful reflection of our modern society. The democratic values of consensus arising from our transition to democracy, which have made us a country to be admired, must once again inspire our activity abroad.

We must recover our leading role abroad as a reliable, dependable and respected partner. The economic and institutional reforms we are going to undertake will contribute to international respect for Spain and its international role as an advanced Western democracy that is committed to freedom, democracy and the defence of human rights.

The European Union is the Popular Party's mission. We are proposing a policy that can serve as a model in the European Union and influence its decisions, provide solutions and leadership and commit us to a stable euro, which is the basis for economic and institutional growth and stability.

Our place in the Ibero-American community requires an attitude of responsibility, while offering mutual economic and political opportunities to all its members. Our mission in the Americas is an asset for our position in Europe and our relationship with the United States.

The revolutions in North Africa have opened up both opportunities and uncertainties. Spain will assume an active commitment in providing assistance for the consolidation of democracy in the Mediterranean, in line with the renewed European policy of neighbourliness.

We want a government that helps its societies and companies take advantage of the opportunities available and contribute to development in Asia and Africa. The United States is a partner and an ally. The Atlantic Alliance is a fundamental community of shared values and prosperity. It is essential if Europe is to have a relevant role in the world.

We need to project an image abroad by preparing credible proposals for the agendas of international organisations, for the G-20, for development cooperation and the fight against hunger and poverty.

We want a rational foreign service that is professional and efficient, that helps Spanish people and our companies to tackle international opportunities.

We will maintain our commitment and loyalty to international missions that we have undertaken with our partners and allies to safeguard peace, human rights and our own security.





## 6.1. Models in the European Union

91. We will aim for strict observance of the stability and growth pact in European economic governance. We are committed to the euro as a fundamental part of the project for the progress of the European Union.
92. We will defend a strong Common Agricultural Policy, with sufficient resources for our agricultural and livestock sector. We must also strengthen Europe's food security. Another priority is the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy.

## 6.2. A Spain that counts

93. We will strengthen the political relationship with our partners in the Ibero-American community of nations. We will aim to develop common positions with respect to major international, cultural, educational and scientific challenges at the Ibero-American summits. We will boost the negotiation of political, economic and trade agreements between the European Union and the Ibero-American countries.
94. We will contribute to the democratisation and progress of North Africa by using the value of our own experience in the transition to democracy. Together with our partners in the European Union we will contribute towards boosting the Middle East peace process. In Sub-Saharan Africa we will participate actively in the essential modernisation and development of the continent in the field of economics, politics, culture, health and science.

## 6.3. Spanish people abroad

95. We will modernise the Spanish foreign service to make it more efficient in dealing with the needs of the Spanish people.
96. In partnership with the autonomous regions, we will simplify the process for those Spanish people abroad who wish to return to Spain, by providing information, access to financial assistance and simplifying the administrative procedures required.

## 6.4. Cooperation for modern development

97. We will improve the management and evaluation of development cooperation. We will implement cost-effective and impact analyses. We will coordinate action by all the levels of government in accordance with the strategic priorities and criteria of the European Union.
98. We will promote public-private alliances and corporate social responsibility in development cooperation.



# Join the change

## **6.5. The security and defence of all**

- 99.** We will implement a plan to help families with geographical mobility, housing, education, health, language, the work/life balance and the security of barracks and their residents.
- 100.** We will review the law on military careers to preserve the legal security, professionalism, proper training and future of our Armed Forces.