

CONT Delegation visit to Spain

19 - 21 June 2012

Feedback note



INTRODUCTION

Spain is one of the most important beneficiaries of EU Funds. For the period 2007-2013, it has received more than €35 billion in the framework of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF).

During the programming period 2000-2006, DG REGIO detected serious deficiencies in management and control system both for ERDF and Cohesion Fund. Those deficiencies led the Commission to launch an Action Plan with the Spanish authorities which ran from 2006 to 2009. In that period, the interim payments were formally suspended for some intermediate bodies and, eventually, significant financial corrections were applied. In conclusion a total of 2.600.000.000 € were considered irregular and corrected by withdrawing from payment declarations. Problems were also detected with regard to the ESF spending.

As a consequence, the Budgetary Control Committee of the European Parliament decided to send a fact-finding delegation in order to learn more about the implementation of EU funds in Spain. The purpose of the delegation was to meet the authorities at central and regional level, as well as the national audit authority, in order to get more insight into problems which Spain has been and is facing in the context of structural funds and to discuss possible remedies for the future.

The programme and list of participants is to be found in Annex I.

Tuesday 19 June 2012 - Madrid

The delegation arrived in Madrid in the afternoon of 19 June 2012. The official meetings were held in Sala Europa at the European Parliament office.

Welcome by the local authorities

Meeting with ***Iñigo Méndez de Vigo***, Secretario de Estado para la Unión Europea (Secretary of State for European Affairs)

Derek Vaughan, the Chair of the delegation, stressed that, although the delegation would look at errors, the principal objective was to be helpful by identifying possible improvements to make, e.g. through eliminating duplications and improving the effectiveness of control.



The Spanish Secretary of State expressed concerns regarding the current economic problems and highlighted this as a critical moment for the European Union. He shared the delegation's concern about making controls fully effective and ensuring that all expenditure is incurred in the correct manner. Efficiency should serve the purpose of fulfilling the new ambitious vision of what is now expected from the EU.

Michael Theurer, CONT Chair, acknowledged the achievements in Spain with the help of EU funds and stressed the need to learn from past experience. He appealed to the Spanish Government through the Secretary of State to support the European Parliament's request in the framework of negotiations on the Financial Regulation, to see individual EU Member States taking full responsibility in accounting for the 80% of EU expenditure which they manage, through national management declarations.

Exchange of views with the national authorities responsible for the management of EU funds

Exchange of views with the representatives of the Ministerio de Hacienda y Administraciones Públicas del Gobierno de España (*Ministry of Finance and Public Administration*): ***José María Piñero Campos***, Director General de Fondos Comunitarios (Director General of Community Funds) and ***Anatolio Alonso Pardo*** (Dep. Director General for ERDF Administration)

The Finance and Public Administration Ministry presented the system of management for the funds and the more diversified use of EU money now compared to the 80s and

90s when the biggest part was used for infrastructure. The representatives of the Ministry underlined the need for simplification of rules, as, in their view, the 21st century priorities are being managed with tools developed in the 20th century. The long-standing conflict between Spanish law and EU rules on procurement was explained with reference to modifications after award of an initial contract (permitted in Spain but not under EU rules). In the opinion of the Spanish authorities, this had affected significant numbers of funded projects and was at the root of significant disputes over whether expenditure was correct or not. They stressed the flexibility in approach, the sense of responsibility and the wish for constant improvement and the "Learning by Doing" now prevalent in Spain.

The delegation asked how controls could be made more efficient. It was emphasised that a new audit system is needed for new times. The reliability of the DAS methodology was discussed. It was argued that the ECA's method makes no distinction between a five euro error and a half a million euro error.

Members of the delegation emphasised that it would be useful in the future to have a Member of the ECA accompanying EP Budget Control Committee delegations.

The representatives of the Ministry declared that the independence of the Spanish audit authority is ensured through an appropriate organisational structure.

Exchange of views with a representative of the Ministerio de Fomento del Gobierno de España (*Ministry of Transport*) - the biggest "beneficiary" of EU funds: **Mario Garcés**, Subsecretario,

The Transport and Public Works Under-Secretary, Mario Garces, made a presentation on the management structure for the funds. It can be observed that the levels of EU resources are now considerably lower than in previous funding periods.

One initiative which seemed surprising to some members of the delegation is the sell off of "superfluous" airport capacity, much of which had been created with EU funding. The Ministry representative said their value would have to be improved before the sell off. 17 small scale airports were to be "re-scaled" with shorter opening hours. This was a government effort to make savings which the previous government had begun.

Other questions concerned PPPs (seen as an essential tool in the current climate) and use of EU funds for ports, which had been criticised by the ECA. The response was that the missing infrastructure was now being built to make sure the facilities would be fully usable.

In response to a question by the Chair of the delegation on the large number of intermediate bodies, the Spanish authorities explained that they reflected the Spanish governance model, which is close to the federal one.

Exchange of views with the representatives of the Ministerio de Empleo y Seguridad Social del Gobierno de España (*Ministry of Labour and Social Security*): **Miguel Angel García Martín**, Director General del Trabajo Autónomo, de la Economía Social y de la Responsabilidad Social de las Empresas (*Director General for Social Economy*) - and **Carlos Tortuero Martín**, Subdirector General de la Unidad Administradora del Fondo Social Europeo

The representatives of the Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Security made an exhaustive presentation on the mode of management and monitoring of the European Social Fund in Spain.

The Spanish authorities explained that the high error rate discovered by the ECA had arisen at the closure of the programmes. They further explained that a big shift of resources was now underway to provide funds for the Youth Employment Plan. There was a question about 125 million being withdrawn from organisations not part of the public employment service and the members of the delegation were told that some of the funding streams had been blocked or were not being used effectively. Two goals were being pursued at the same time: reducing risk and tackling youth unemployment.

Wednesday 20 June 2012 - Valencia

Travel to Valencia by train

Exchange of views on the train with representatives of ADIF - Administrador de Infraestructuras Ferroviarias (Administrator of Railway Infrastructure): **Clara Zamorano** and **Rosa Sebastián**



The delegation took the 8.40 train to the city of Valencia. On the train the representatives of ADIF made a presentation on the management of EU funds by ADIF. Spain is the first country in Europe and second in the world, after China, in terms of the number of kilometres of high-performance line in operation, ahead even of countries with a great tradition in this type of transport, such as Japan and France.

There are almost 2,900 km of line in service, and 19 Spanish provinces and 27 cities are connected directly by the Spanish high-speed railway network.

The high speed network has been a consensus project under all governments as a job creator and boost to growth.

The European financing of high speed rail in Spain is provided through Cohesion Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Trans-European Transport Network Funding and the European Investment Bank.

ADIF representatives explained that payments made in 2011 amounted to 893.2 million EURO. Of this amount, 703.9 million EURO concern the financing period 2007-2013.

ADIF representatives presented the basic tools used for the management of EU funds and explained the various phases of realisation of a project. They explained the system of environmental governance of the projects and the control systems put in place. They emphasised the importance of visibility of EU funding, and illustrated this by showing the delegation a plaque informing of the engagement of EU funds in the realisation of the project in Valencia station.

Project visits

After the train journey the delegation proceeded with the project presentations foreseen in the programme at Instituto Tecnológico de Energía ITE.

BIOCAR

BIOCAR is a research project in ecological materials and processes in the automotive sector. Valencia is a region whose economy is to a large extent based on industry, and therefore industrial R&D projects are of special relevance. The automotive sector



is a key industrial activity in the region and eco-efficiency is one of the main drivers of the global automotive sector. Research in the BIOCAR project aims to develop competences related to eco efficiency issues in the regional based automotive suppliers.

The project had brought together a consortium of 10 regional companies and 4 technical centres.

In the context of the discussions on this project the issues of contract "modifications" and avoidance of re-tendering was raised once more.

De-pollution of a brownfield site (chemical factory) next to the lower Turia river

The second presentation concerned the de-pollution of a contaminated site by the lower Turia river in Valencia, financed by the Cohesion Fund (2000-2006). The EU contribution to this project amounted to 14.226.547 EUR. The project consisted in decontamination of land with high levels of heavy metals and hydrocarbons to ensure

that the previously contaminated site no longer poses any significant risk to human health or the environment. During the de-contamination process, 102 993,12 tonnes of material were removed to the treatment plant, and 381 446,76 tons were removed to a non-hazardous landfill. A further 64 224,41 tons of inert waste were transferred to an inert waste landfill.

The EU contribution for this project, which was determined at the level of 80% of the eligible public cost of the project, was reduced by the Commission by 7 757 675,20 EURO in its decision C(2011)990 of 22.12.2012 after finding irregularities, pertaining mainly to the "modifications" (for complementary and additional work) of the existing contracts. The decision was challenged by Spain before the General Court of the EU in case T-111/12 which is still pending.

Institutional welcome by *Alberto Fabra Part* - Presidente de la Generalitat Valenciana



Members of the delegation were officially welcomed in Valencia at the Palau de la Generalitat by Alberto Fabra Part, the President of the regional government of Valencia.

The Chair of the delegation reaffirmed that the purpose of the delegation was to help the Spanish central and local authorities remedy the existing problems in spending of EU funds.

The President of the Valencian government declared that funds would now focus on achieving better competitiveness. He underlined that much stricter criteria were now being applied when selecting projects for EU funding. He also stated that the authority was willing to apologise for earlier errors and correct them, but stressed these were not deliberate.

Press point

Numerous journalists were awaiting the delegation at the Palau de la Generalitat.

In his statement to the press, the Chair of the delegation declared that resources should be directed to initiatives to engender growth and that irregularities or inefficient use of funds hindered this. He underlined that austerity alone was not working - and that lessons from the past should be learnt.



He emphasised that Spain had experienced suspensions or financial corrections on European funding but it was very clear that improvements had already been made from 2010 onwards. He acknowledged the particular challenges in Spain (its size, the decentralisation and the legal interpretations of problems on procurement) and also recognised that there was now a strong wish for constant improvement in the management of the funds.

Working lunch with D. José Manuel Vela BARGUES - Conseller de Hacienda y Administración Pública, D. Eusebio Monzó Martínez - Secretario Autonómico de Hacienda y Presupuestos and D. Juan Manuel Viesca Marqués –Director General de Proyectos y Fondos Europeos de la Generalitat Valenciana

During the working lunch Director General of European Projects and Funds of the Valencian Government, Juan Manuel Viesca Marques, reminded those present that public opinion showed a level of insecurity about whether there should be more or less Europe and that divisions were to be avoided. He stressed that the Generalitat was refocusing programmes on support for young people, SMEs and self employed people. The Director General and MEP Salvador Garriga Polledo emphasised that the Valencia Tourism Agency (Agencia Valenciana de Turismo - AVT) would not be closed and the tourism actions in the ~~Operational Programme~~ **Structural Funds** would continue, and that outstanding issues with the Commission would be resolved.

Andrea Mairate from the European Commission said lessons had been learnt from the 2009/10 audits, through the action plan and corrective measures. It seemed that the Generalitat had acted in good faith.

The Generalitat, in response to questions about the ratio of European to domestic money, said that they were working hard to meet 2020 targets and that in the future ERDF would be limited to three axes: innovation, SMEs, and energy efficiency and that AVT was not entirely taken out of the **Structural Funds** programme.

Meeting with representatives of the OHIM: João Negro, Director of the International cooperation and Legal Affairs Department, Peter Rodinger Head of Accounting and Treasury Service, and Patrice Pellegrino, the Brussels Liaison Officer

OHIM is a not-for-profit European agency, based in Alicante (Spain). It is the biggest EU agency with some 700 permanent and temporary staff and 300 external support staff and with an annual income of around EUR 180 million.

The mission of the Office is to manage the Community Trade Mark and Community Design registration systems. As a European agency, OHIM is supervised by the European Commission, but has legal, administrative and financial autonomy. The President is responsible for the running of the Office and there is also an Administrative Board and a Budget Committee, each composed of one representative from each Member State and one representative from the Commission.

On 19 April 2012 the European Parliament and the Council adopted Regulation (EU) 386/2012 on entrusting the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade

Marks and Designs) with tasks related to the enforcement of intellectual property rights. The regulation provided for the assembling of public and private-sector representatives as a European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights and this was created in April 2009.

MEPs put forward questions about staffing, location of the Office, its falling income following decreases in trademark fees, EP's role in the supervision of OHIM, budget surplus and protection of OHIM data. In response to those questions the representatives of OHIM stated the budget would be in balance in the next few years and the surplus would be partly used to purchase a new building in Alicante, and refurbish the existing one. They underlined that the location of the Office had little relevance as 95% of the applications were made on-line. With regard to the EP's role in the supervision of OHIM, they explained that Members or representatives of the EP were invited as participants or observers to the various meetings of the Observatory.

After the meeting with the representatives of OHIM the delegation returned to Madrid by train.

Thursday 21 June 2012 - Madrid

Exchange of views with regional authority representatives of Andalucía and Castilla-La Mancha

On Thursday morning the delegation held meetings with representatives of regional authorities responsible for the management of EU funds at the European Parliament Office.

Exchange of views with **D. Gaspar Llanes Díaz-Salazar** - Secretario General de Economía de la Consejería de Economía, Innovación, Ciencia y Empleo de la Junta de Andalucía and **Patricia Eguilior Arranz** - Directora General de Fondos Europeos y Planificación de la Junta de Andalucía

The representatives of the region made a multi-media presentation of the development of Andalucía with the support of EU funds. It was followed by a Power-Point presentation on the effectiveness of EU funding in that region. The representatives of Andalusian authorities explained that the main focus for the region should now be on employment, R&D and poverty reduction. They emphasised the negative impact of the crisis on the poorest regions and noted that any EU funds cuts would be very detrimental to Andalusia's economy.

Asked by a member of the delegation about the consequences and remedial action with regard to interruption of payments under the Andalusia Operational Programme, the representatives of the Andalusian government explained that errors originated from one file, which gave rise to the irregularity rate. The Commission lifted the interruption of payments following the checks and the subsequent decertification of irregular expenditure. They expressed their view that the way of sampling by the ECA

is problematic. They further underlined that there were irregularities but not fraud and pointed out to the need for alternative audit approaches.

Exchange of views with **Rosario Rey García** - Directora General de Presupuestos y Fondos Europeos de la Junta de Comunidades de Castilla-La Mancha and **Da. Yolanda Ortiz Ballesteros** - Secretaria General de la Consejería de Empleo y Economía

The representatives of the regional government made a Power Point presentation on the implementation of ERDF and ESF in Castilla-La Mancha. They presented in detail the management and control systems, as well as achievements and problems still encountered in management of EU funds. In particular, they pointed out to excessive administrative burden on the management and control tasks before certification. They also presented possible lessons to consider for the programming period 2014-2020.

In response to a question by a member of the delegation, the representatives of Castilla-La Mancha stated that R&D development projects are those which are most difficult to manage. In terms of effectiveness, they emphasised that whereas there may not be economic efficiency, there can still be social effectiveness. On the question of possible cases of fraud, they answered that none had been detected by the control systems put in place. Answering the question on how to improve balance between the population density of urban areas and the rural ones, the representatives of Castilla-La Mancha explained that infrastructure and road networks had been built in rural areas in order to encourage the inhabitants to stay there.

Press conference

The Chair of the delegation made the following statement to the press:

"It is clear to everyone that, in Europe, we need to devote as many resources as we possibly can to kick start our economies and engender growth. Austerity alone is not working and this delegation has been about making the most of what is available to us and using funds in the most efficient and effective ways possible and learning from what might have gone wrong in the past.

It is no secret that Spain has experienced suspensions or cancellation of European funding payments where systems have not been operating properly. Even before getting into the detailed discussions and visits, it was very clear that improvements were already being made from 2010 onwards.

We heard the concerns of the Secretary of State on our first day here regarding the current economic problems and critical moment for Europe. He shared our concern about making controls fully effective and ensuring all expenditure is correct so that efficiency is used to serve to help us realise the new ambitious vision of what we now want from Europe.

Our committee Chair, Mr Theurer, could only stay for the first day, but he acknowledged how many things have been achieved in Spain with the help of EU funds and stressed the need to learn from earlier experiences. Having been involved in the negotiations on the Financial Regulation, he appealed to the Spanish Government through the Secretary of State to support the European Parliament's position with individual EU Member States taking full responsibility in accounting for the 80% of EU expenditure which they manage.

The Finance and Public Administration Ministry (Hacienda) gave us some very detailed information about management of funds and the more diversified use of EU money now compared to the 80s and 90s when the biggest part was used for infrastructure. The long standing conflict between Spanish law and EU rules on procurement was explained with reference to modifications after award of an initial contract (previously permitted in Spain but not generally elsewhere). This was at the root of significant disputes over whether expenditure was correct or not. He referred to the particular challenges in Spain (it's size, the decentralisation and the legal interpretation problems on procurement etc). We got a clear sense from this session with the 'Hacienda' ministry of the flexibility, the responsibility and the wish for constant improvement in management of the funds.

Complexity in managing funds is a burden for all of us. We, the EP, are tackling it in our approach to the reform of the Financial Regulation covering the EU's budget, but we would appeal to the authorities here in Spain to play their part in simplification.

We heard from Transport and Public Works Under Secretary Garces about management of the funds for transport and that EU funding levels were now considerably lower than in previous funding periods (down 54% for rail, 45% for ports, 26% for airports and 76% for roads)

One initiative which seemed surprising to some members of the delegation is the proposal to sell off of "superfluous" airport capacity and to reduce opening hours for some smaller airports as part of the effort to make savings which the previous government had begun. From the delegation's point of view it would be important to know what EU funds had been engaged in airports which were to be sold off.

We also raised questions about Public Private Partnerships (PPP, inevitable in the current climate) and use of Cohesion funds for ports criticised by the ECA. We heard that for the relevant projects, infrastructure was now being built to make the facilities fully usable.

In the session on ESF we heard about the shift of sources provide funds for the Youth Employment Plan. There was some concern about organisations outside the public employment service losing funds and we were told that some funding streams had been blocked if they had not been used effectively. Current goals were now to lessen risk and tackle youth unemployment.

We benefitted from the high speed rail network which is seen by all as a job creator and boost to growth. We saw, first hand the success of that investment.

In Valencia we heard details about a project in the automotive sector and a decontamination project by the river in Valencia. The EP delegation met the regional president, who reiterated that funds would now focus on achieving better competitiveness and said that much stricter criteria were now being applied when selecting projects for EU funding. He said that the authority was willing to apologise for earlier errors and correct them, but stressed these were not deliberate.

The DG for European funds and projects, Mr JM Viesca Marques, stressed the Generalitat was refocusing programmes on support for young people, SMEs and self employed people. He also said that the Valencia Tourism Agency would not be closed and suggestions of this possibility made to the press were incorrect, so the tourism actions in the Operational Programme would continue and any outstanding issues with the Commission would be resolved.

A European Commission representative accompanying the delegation said lessons had been learnt from the 2009/10 and the Generalitat had acted in good faith so DG Regio did not have a problem with Valencia. A report due to be published shortly would almost certainly indicate that overall problems had been resolved. If the report gives clearance then the funded actions should be able to go ahead again. This should then bring to an end the cycle of audit/interruption of payments which has been ongoing for two years.

We also had a presentation about the work of OHIM which is so important in protecting designs and trademarks in the EU. We also met representatives of the regions of Andalucía and Castilla La Mancha and will see the audit authority representative before the end of the visit."

Answering a question put forward by the journalists, the Chair of the delegation explained that it was not the delegation's role to tell Spain what next steps should be taken. He acknowledged that an improvement had been made in terms of regularity of spending EU funds, emphasised however that there was room for progress.

On the question of whether 145 intermediate bodies are an obstacle to correct spending, he stated that the delegation had raised that issue at various points in the visit as a potential source of problems, but the decision belonged to Spain.

He further clarified that the CONT delegation was not competent for bailout issues and limited itself to the supervision of spending of structural funds.

Exchange of views with the Audit Authority

Exchange of views with the Office Interventor General de la Administración del Estado (Audit Authority) *José Carlos Alcalde Hernández and Carmen Serrano de la Hoz,*

The representative of the audit authority made a PowerPoint presentation on the administrative structure and the working methods of the Spanish audit authority. The presentation was followed by an exchange of views with the members of the delegation.

Members asked questions about performance audit, cooperation with OLAF, cases of corruption detected, cases where funds had to be withdrawn, and possibilities for reducing the number of intermediate bodies. The representatives of the audit authority explained that they did not carry out performance audits, they further explained that there had been a good cooperation with OLAF and that the audit authority themselves looked at all questions with financial impact resulting from their own reports. They further declared that there had been isolated cases of corruption, however not in a generalised manner. Next they stated that often there was not enough documented justification for the use of the funds. Finally, with regard to the question on the intermediate bodies, they explained that the complicated structure resulted from the system of devolved government. They took the view that simplification of procedures would be key for limiting the number of errors occurring.

**Fact-finding delegation of the Committee on Budgetary Control to
SPAIN,
19-21 June 2012**

FINAL PROGRAMME

Members of the delegation:

1. Derek VAUGHAN (Head of Delegation, S&D, UK)
2. Jean-Pierre AUDY (EPP, FR)
3. Cătălin SORIN IVAN (S&D, RO)
4. Theodoros SKYLAKAKIS (ALDE, GR)
5. Michael THEURER (ALDE, DE)

Members accompanying the delegation (out of quota)

6. Eva ORTIZ VILELLA (EPP, ES)
7. Salvador GARRIGA POLLEDO (EPP, ES)
8. Inés AYALA SENDER (S&D, ES)
9. Josefa ANDRÉS BAREA (S&D, ES) - only in Valencia (on 20 June)

CONT Secretariat

10. Urszula MOJKOWSKA
 11. József BLASZAUER
- (EP mobile as of 19 June till 21 June: +32-473-843-137)*

Advisors of Political Groups

12. Balázs SZÉCHY (EPP)
13. Maggie COULTHARD (S&D)
14. Dominykas MORDAS (ALDE)

Commission

15. Andrea MAIRATE - DG Regional Policy - Head of Unit - G.1 Spain
16. Georges KINTZELE - DG EMPL - Head of Unit - E.4. Spain, Portugal, Hungary (on 19/6)
17. Miguel TEJADA FERNÁNDEZ - E.4. Spain, Portugal, Hungary

Interpreters

18. J. GETAN BORNN - Team leader
19. K. MC LAUGHLIN (EN)
20. F. GONZALEZ (ES)

21. T. AHONEN - Technician from DG INTE - EP

Languages covered

EN, ES

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The delegation will have an air-conditioned bus at its disposal in Madrid and in Valencia

Recommended flights of delegationFrom Brussels to Madrid Barajas with **Iberia** or **Brussels Airlines**

OUTWARD					
Flight		On	Leg	Departure Time	Arrival Time
IB3203		19JUN	Brussels Airport	12:15	14:35
SN3727		19JUN	Brussels Airport	14:20	16:50
IB3197		19JUN	Brussels Airport	15:00	17:30
RETURN					
IB3214		21JUN	Madrid Barajas	16:00	18:20
SN3728		21JUN	Madrid Barajas	17:30	20:00
IB3208		21JUN	Madrid Barajas	19:45	22:05

I. Tuesday 19 June 2012 - Madrid**Travel to Madrid.****Suggested flight: Iberia 3203, departure: Brussels 12.15, arrival Madrid 14.35**

A bus has been booked to pick up the participants travelling with **this flight, and for this flight only**, in Madrid Barajas airport.

- 14.35
Airport Arrival of participants with flight IB3203 to Madrid-Barajas
- 15.15 Departure from the airport to the **European Parliament Office** - Paseo de la Castellana, 46 (Madrid)

Welcome by the local authorities

- 16.15 - 16.45
Unión Meeting with **Iñigo Méndez de Vigo**, Secretario de Estado para la Europea (Secretary of State for European Affairs)
- Venue: Sala Europa - European Parliament Office - Paseo de la Castellana, 46 (Madrid)*

Exchange of views with the national authorities responsible for the management of EU funds

Venue: Sala Europa - European Parliament Office - Paseo de la Castellana, 46 (Madrid)

1. Ministerio de Hacienda y Administraciones Públicas del Gobierno de España (*Ministry of the Finance and Public Administration*)

- 16.45 - 17.45 Meeting with **José María Piñero Campos**, Director General de Fondos Comunitarios (Director General of Community Funds) and **Anatolio Alonso Pardo** (Dep. Director General of the administration of the ERDF), followed by a short break

2. Ministerio de Fomento del Gobierno de España (*Ministry of Transport*) - the biggest "beneficiary" of EU funds

- 18.00 - 19.00 Meeting with **Mario Garcés**, Subsecretario, followed by a short break

3. Ministerio de Empleo y Seguridad Social del Gobierno de España (*Ministry of Labour and Social Security*)

- 19.15 - 20.30 Meeting with **Miguel Angel García Martín**, Director General del Trabajo Autónomo, de la Economía Social y de la Responsabilidad Social de las Empresas (*Director General for Social Economy*) - and **Carlos Tortuero Martín**, Subdirector General de la Unidad Administradora del Fondo Social Europeo

20.30 Departure by bus from the European Parliament Office to the hotel

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Free dinner arrangements

II. Wednesday 20 June 2012 - Valencia

8.00 Departure by bus from the hotel to the Atocha train station

8.40 - 10.18 **Travel to Valencia by train (with AVE)**

Estación de Atocha

Plaza Emperador Carlos V
28012 Madrid

- Exchange of views on the train with representatives of ADIF - Administrador de Infraestructuras Ferroviarias (Administrator of Railway Infrastructure), responsible for the high speed rail, which is a project for which the investment over the period 2000-2013 amounts to 8.819,8 M.

10.18 - 13.20 **Project visits**

- Visit to the project: "*Investigación en materiales y procesos ecológicos en el sector de la automoción y medios de transporte: PROYECTO BIOCAR*" - Intermediate Body: Regional Government, Agency for SME support (IMPIVA) - value of the EU contribution: 390.550,84 EUR. - Located out of Valencia

Venue: Instituto Tecnológico de Energía ITE. Avenida de Juan de la Cierva, 24, Paterna, Valencia

and

- Presentation of the project: "de-pollution of a brownfield site (chemical factory) in lower Turia river in Valencia downtown" (parcels 138-139 and 002 of the PAU, Avenida de Francia) - Intermediate body: Regional Government, Ministry of Territory and Housing - value of the EU contribution: 14.226.547 EUR

Venue: Instituto Tecnológico de Energía ITE. Avenida de Juan de la Cierva, 24, Paterna, Valencia

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- 13.20 – 14.00 Institutional Welcome by **Alberto Fabra Part** - Presidente de la **Generalitat Valenciana** (*the regional government of Valencia which is the intermediate body responsible for the management of EU funds in that region*)
Venue: Palau de la Generalitat, C/ Caballeros n°2
- 14.00 Press point
- 15.00 - 17.00 Lunch, in the presence of **D. José Manuel Vela BARGUES** - Conseller de Hacienda y Administración Pública, **D. Eusebio Monzó Martínez** - Secretario Autonómico de Hacienda y Presupuestos and **D. Juan Manuel Viesca Marqués** –Director General de Proyectos y Fondos Europeos de la **Generalitat Valenciana**,
Venue: Escuela de hostelería financed with EU funds (Centro de Turismo CdT, Paseo de la Alameda, 37, Valencia)
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- 16.10 - 17.30 Meeting with **D. José Manuel Vela BARGUES** - Conseller de Hacienda y Administración Pública, **D. Eusebio Monzó Martínez** - Secretario Autonómico de Hacienda y Presupuestos, in the presence of **Juan Manuel Viesca Marqués** - Director General de Proyectos y Fondos Europeos de la **Generalitat Valenciana**,
Venue: Escuela de hostelería financed with EU funds (Centro de Turismo CdT, Paseo de la Alameda, 37, Valencia)
- 17:30 Departure to the meeting room
- 17.45 - 19.00 Meeting with representatives of the OAMI, Oficina de Armonización del Mercado Interior - marcas, dibujos y modelos - (OHIM, *Office of Harmonization for the Internal Market*, European agency managing the Community Trade Mark and Community Design registration systems)
<http://oami.europa.eu/>
Exchange of views with **Joao Negro**, Director of the International cooperation and legal affairs department and **Eva Cutillas**, Deputy Director Finance area (Budget, Control and procurement services) – “Resources Department”.
Venue: Sala de Autoridades de la Ciudad de la Justicia. Avda Profesor Lopez Piñero n° 14. Valencia

- 19.40 - 21.24 **Return to Madrid by train**
Internal delegation meeting in the train
- 21.30 Departure by bus from Atocha train station to the hotel
- Free dinner arrangements

III. Thursday 21 June 2012 - Madrid

- 8.15 Departure by bus from the hotel to the European Parliament Office
- 8.45-9.00 Internal meeting of the delegation
- Exchange of views with the regional authorities responsible for the management of EU funds**
- Venue: Sala Europa - European Parliament Office - Paseo de la Castellana, 46 (Madrid)*
- 9.00 - 10.15 Meeting with **D. Gaspar Llanes Díaz-Salazar** - Secretario General de Economía de la Consejería de Economía, Innovación, Ciencia y Empleo de la Junta de Andalucía and **Patricia Eguilior Arranz** - Directora General de Fondos Europeos y Planificación de la Junta de Andalucía
- 10.15 - 11.30 Meeting with and **Rosario Rey García** - Directora General de Presupuestos y Fondos Europeos de la Junta de Comunidades de Castilla-La Mancha and **Da. Yolanda Ortiz Ballesteros** - Secretaria General de la Consejería de Empleo y Economía (*the regional government of Castilla-La Mancha is the intermediate body responsible for the management of EU funds in that region*)
- 11.30 - 12.00 Press conference
- Exchange of views with the Audit Authority**
- Venue: Sala Europa - European Parliament Office - Paseo de la Castellana, 46 (Madrid)*
- 12.00 - 13.30 Meeting with **José Carlos Alcalde Hernández**, Interventor General de la Administración del Estado (*Audit Authority*)
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- 13.30 End of delegation visit (individual departures to the airport)
- Individual return flights to places of origin**