

The government cites total saving from Reform of Public Administration Services at 33.94 billion euros

Moncloa Palace, Madrid, Friday 12 February 2016

The Council of Ministers analysed the quarterly report on the oversight of measures taken by the Commission for the Reform of the Public Administration Services (Spanish acronym: CORA), which contains the figures from October 2015 to date.

Acting Vice-President of the Government, Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría, reported that 13 new measures have now been concluded, among which she highlighted the implementation of the Single Customs Portal (Spanish acronym: VUA), which will lead to greater effectiveness and cost savings in the field of foreign trade.

Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría underlined that this one-stop shop "seeks swifter communications between operators and the different public authorities and public bodies that take part in the process of customs clearance to speed up the whole area of trade operations". The goal, she added, is "to concentrate all the formalities necessary in a single process in order to proceed through customs clearance" for the import and export of certain products at our ports and airports.

"Its implementation will lead to an estimated saving of some 500 million euros per annum for economic operators, since it allows for import operations to be planned much better, cuts down the time that goods are halted in customs and improves the competitiveness of Spanish ports", pointed out the Vice-President of the Government. The pilot project will be performed at the ports of Barcelona, Tenerife, Bilbao and Vigo.

By way of example, Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría pointed out that the average stay in customs for 80% of goods stands at half an hour, but the remaining 20% require other controls, in addition to customs clearance, which may delay their stay by up to two days, with the corresponding cost that this represents.

The Government Spokesperson also referred to the extension of the Your Social Security Portal, which allows for the most frequent procedures and enquiries to this body to be carried out, such as requesting the European healthcare card, obtaining information on your retirement age and obtaining certificates and reports.

Balance of application over last year

As regards the CORA measures implemented over the last year, the Vice-President of the Government disclosed that 25.5 million citizens now have clinical records available through the National Health System thanks to the Interoperable Digital Clinical History; which has already recorded 16,325 births electronically from hospitals and 1.9 million jobs in the different autonomous regions and through placement agencies have been offered through the Single Job Portal. She also highlighted that over the last year, 41.5 million appointments have been made at the Public Employment Service and 6.5 million appointments at Traffic Headquarters; more than 11 million electronic notifications have been made to companies and, since 1 June 2015, when it came into force, 342,000 announcements have been made through the Single Edict Portal.

Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría announced that, since June 2013, of the 222 measures contained in the CORA report, 193 - representing 87% - have now been concluded. Furthermore, 391 agreements have been entered into with regional governments, 101 regulatory bills have been processed by the Council of Ministers with CORA content and 2,348 public bodies have been closed down: 115 State bodies, 797 regional bodies and 1,436 local bodies.

The Vice-President of the Government highlighted that the savings made as a result of CORA amount to 30.5 billion euros for the public administration services as a whole, 154 million more than in November 2015, and a saving of 3.44 billion euros for citizens, 372 million more than at the date mentioned above. In total, the saving amounts to 33.94 billion euros.

On another note, according to the information offered by the Vice-President of the Government, at 31 January 2016, the Transparency Portal had received 4.62 million visits and 4,000 enquiries, and the number of records had increased from 500,000 in December 2014 - when it was started up - to 1.36 million by January 2016. "We now publish all the forms of subsidy and public aid, including to the State political parties, and we are starting to include subsidies from regional governments and local authorities", she said.

The Vice-President of the Government recalled that both CORA and the Transparency Portal have received various awards, and that the Global Innovation Index report for 2015 places Spain in fourth place internationally, alongside Japan and the United States, in the provision of online administrative services.

Informe ejecutivo. Balance CORA. Febrero 2016:

http://www.seap.minhap.gob.es/dms/es/web/areas/reforma_aapp/proceso/CORA-Informe-ejecutivo-balance-CORA-febrero-2016.pdf

Informe anual de progreso. Febrero 2016:

http://www.seap.minhap.gob.es/dms/es/web/areas/reforma_aapp/proceso/CORA-Informe-Anual-de-seguimiento-2015.pdf