

## Government approves creation of State Research Agency

*Moncloa Palace, Madrid, Friday 27 November 2015*

The Council of Ministers approved the creation of the State Research Agency, which responds to a demand from the scientific community contained in the Science, Technology and Innovation Act 2011.

The Vice-President of the Government, Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría, highlighted that its aim is to "foster research and the development of innovation in Spain", and that it constitutes "one of the most significant reforms of this legislature in this field".

The Minister for Economic Affairs and Competition, Luis de Guindos, added that the main goal of the agency "is to ensure more effective and more flexible funding of research while guaranteeing its control and a strict system of accountability".

The agency will provide greater stability to public subsidies for R&D, explained Luis de Guindos, because it will enable multi-year planning of its resources and will have "an independent evaluation system adapted to best international practices". This evaluation will be carried out taking into account the results obtained from the funding provided to the different research plans. It will also lead to a reduction in administrative burdens which, according to the minister, "will result in a much more flexible interaction between researchers".

Luis de Guindos highlighted that the agency will receive funding from both the General State Budget and from the private sector. He said that "its structure will also be very simple and with zero cost".

In this regard, he specified that it will have 300 professionals from the State Secretariat for R&D+i, and it will manage "approximately 75% of all the non-financial credit resources" provided to the agency. It is scheduled to be up and running in 2016.

The minister reviewed the actions in the field of R&D+i during the course of this term of office and pointed out that "the latest milestone was the approval of the Higher Council for Scientific Research (Spanish acronym: CSIC) management programme", the research flagship in Spain. "It has never had a strategic plan, which is surprising, and hence, this will be the first time that a government has approved a strategic plan for the CSIC", he underlined.