

Internationalisation of the economy and retail trade

Moncloa Palace, Madrid, Friday 8 September 2017

The Council of Ministers approved the Internationalisation Strategy of the Spanish Economy 2017-2027 and its first Two-Year Action Plan (2017-2018).

The Government Spokesperson underlined the contribution from exports, which in 2016 hit an all-time high, to the recovery of the Spanish economy. The aim of this medium- and long-term strategy is precisely to ensure that this positive contribution from the foreign trade sector to growth "becomes structural and leads to job creation". With this goal in mind, six lines of action have been established, together with specific measures to support exporters and attract investors to Spain.

Also at an economic level, the government approved the Comprehensive Plan to Boost the Competitiveness of Retail Trade 2017. The aim, according to Íñigo Méndez de Vigo, is "to help traditional trade to adapt to new purchasing environments, to employ digital platforms and to operate online to provide a response to new consumer purchasing habits".

The Government Spokesperson pointed out that the economic crisis was very harsh on this sector, which represents around 5% of GDP and provides jobs for almost two million people in Spain. Since 2013, the government has pushed through successive plans to boost the competitiveness of retail trade, which has benefitted more than 300,000 businesses. The approval of this new plan continues with this work and seeks to support the renewal of companies, committing to a combination of physical shops with online strategies, declared Íñigo Méndez de Vigo.

Internationalisation Strategy of the Spanish Economy 2017-2027 and its first Two-Year Action Plan (2017-2018):

http://www.mineco.gob.es/stfls/mineco/prensa/ficheros/noticias/2017/170908_Estrategia_Internacionalizacion_2017_2027.pdf (Spanish)

Comprehensive Plan to Boost the Competitiveness of Retail Trade 2017:

http://www.mineco.gob.es/stfls/mineco/prensa/ficheros/noticias/2017/170908_Plan_Integral_Comercializacion_17.pdf (Spanish)