

TPG Europe for Peace Spain EUROMAD 2024

Spain is a Constitutional parliamentary monarchy situated at the crossroads of Europe and Africa and has coasts to the Mediterranean Sea as well as the Atlantic Ocean. The Head of State is Felipe VI, King of Spain and the Head of Government is Pedro Sanchez, Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE). It is home to 47,62 million inhabitants, 3,2 million of which live in the capital, Madrid. The official language is Spanish alongside Basque, Catalan, Galician, and Valencian. In 1955, Spain joined the United Nations where it later in 2015 became a non-permanent member of the Security Council for 2 years during which it worked alongside the 5 permanent members. As a member of the European Union, which it joined in 1986, and various international organizations, Spain plays a crucial role in promoting peace and stability within Europe and beyond. It is composed of 17 autonomous communities, each with its own distinct culture and identity.

As a member of the European Union Spain is committed to keep peace even beyond its borders as it takes part of a collective effort with the presence of its contingents in seventeen military operations abroad, seven of them EU-sponsored. Spain as well as other EU members have the operational capacity to deploy civilian and military operations abroad, the objectives of which may be: armed conflict prevention, post conflict stabilization, joint disarmament operations and humanitarian and rescue work. The most recent is the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine, launched on 15 November 2022, which seeks to enhance the military capability of the Ukrainian Armed Forces to defend its territorial integrity and protect the Ukrainian civilian population from Russian aggression. The Spanish presidency of the Council of the EU has set two objectives: Strengthen Europe's capacity to protect its citizens and protect security to our environment by promoting the values set by the EU.

Since Spain's first operation in Angola 1989, it has taken part in more than fifty peacekeeping operations all over the world. A total of 3,036 troops are currently engaged in international operations under NATO, EU or UN flags. Spain has taken part in military operations like: EUTM Mali in 2013, 103 Spanish military personnel was involved, and Spain is currently in command of this operation. EUTM Somalia and ETUM CAR are two training operations lead by 16 Spanish military personnel training the Somali Army and 7 Spanish military personnel training the Armed Forces for the Central African Republic.

Spain being member of the European Union and NATO, it constantly collaborates with other members of the EU to promote peace. For example, one of the priorities of the Spanish presidency of the Council of the EU is maintaining coordinated support for Kyiv through the reinforcement of European unity. Spain contributes significantly to the training of the Ukrainian armed forces by providing various courses in the framework of the EU Military Assistance Mission in Support of Ukraine.

On tour in the Middle East, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, asked Israel for an agreement that prevents the suffering of the Palestinian civilian population, while condemning the attacks by Hamas. He defended before the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, that the fight against terrorism after the Hamas attacks cannot be done only with force, but that a horizon must be offered of peace and security. The coexistence of the two states, Israel and Palestine, is the solution that Sánchez told the Israeli prime minister that must be achieved. Sánchez reiterated his defense of the need to convene a peace conference in a few months to move forward in achieving that solution.

In conclusion, Spain's commitment to peace is evident in its active participation in diplomatic efforts, peacekeeping missions, and collaborative initiatives with other states. As a member of the international community, Spain recognizes the importance of maintaining peace and stability for the prosperity and well-being of all nations. Through its actions and partnerships, Spain continues to contribute to Europe's efforts to build a peaceful and prosperous future.