

WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



Welcome to the website we have prepared for the 13th Meeting of the Association of European Senates that will take place in Madrid on the coming 16 to 18 June 2011 and which will deal with The mechanisms used by the Senate for working with local and regional bodies. This Association was created eleven years ago on the initiative of the French Senate, and periodical meetings have been held in order to deal with different subjects affecting both Parliament in general and the Uppers Chambers in particular. It has been consolidated as a forum of exchange of opinions on the highest political level with contributions of maximum interest for fulfilling its three objectives: the development of cooperation among its members, the promotion of the two-chamber system within the framework of parliamentary democracies and the strengthening of European identity and awareness.

Spain wishes to contribute to the discussion and the work that the Senates are carrying out and may carry out in the future towards integration, collaboration and cooperation among all territorial bodies, both the regions and local entities, at a time when the role of the institutions is being questioned. We hope once more to be able to have a rich exchange of experiences and good practices in the working day that is going to take place, and that this might help to help all of our institutions in their daily work.

We would like to invite the citizens to discover a little more about the existence and characteristics of this Association, the work that has been done, its main figures, its objectives and the subjects on which work has been done in recent years. This is a further step in the Spanish Senate's desire to make transparency its principle of action.

I hope that both the European Senates and the citizens might find the information summarised here of the utmost use.

Javier Rojo García
President of the Senate