

The Government approves a decree which enhances and coordinates the Generalitat of Catalonia's international relations

The Cabinet has given the green light to the decree which regulates the coordination of the Generalitat's external activities. The goal of the decree is to lay down the institutional framework in which international relationships between Catalonia and other states, entities and organisations are to be developed.

Approval of this regulation is especially necessary at a time like the present, when the growing internationalisation of the Catalan economy, migratory flows of people coming from other states and the firm commitment of Catalonia to raising the international profile of its own language and culture require the external activities of the Government to be boosted.

The decree approved today lays down that coordinating this external action is to be the responsibility of the President of the Generalitat, who may in turn delegate it to the First Minister. One of the coordination tasks is to consist of driving the mapping out and approval of a plan of action for the Government's external activities.

The agencies tasked with planning and carrying out external promotion actions are to be the International Relations Secretariat, part of the Department of the Presidency, and the External Cooperation Secretariat, part of the Department of Governance and Public Administrations.

As for the division of duties, the International Relations Secretariat will have two main roles. The first is to provide support for the coordination and driving of the Government of the Generalitat's external promotion actions and its participation in the Spanish State's European policy and for publicising the Government's external promotion projects and activities. The second is to see to the ordinary relationships between the Government of the Generalitat and the representatives of other states in Catalonia and with the competent bodies of the Spanish State government in matters concerning external relations.

For its part, the External Cooperation Secretariat is to plan development cooperation policy and monitor its performance, which is to be done through the Catalan Development Cooperation Agency. It will also coordinate the support given to Catalan bodies and organisations with a presence abroad.

Moreover, to ensure the coherence of the Government's international actions, the decree approved today provides for the setting up of a monitoring group tasked with ensuring proper compliance with action plans for external promotion. This group is to meet once a month and will be chaired by the person responsible for coordinating the Government's external activities.

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