



V Forum España – Estados Unidos

Fundación Consejo España – Estados Unidos
US – Spain Council

Barcelona, October 1999

FINAL REPORT

Senator Christopher Dodd and Antonio Garrigues, respectively the newly appointed Chairman of the U.S.-Spain Council and the President of the Fundación Consejo España-Estados Unidos, opened the meeting and expressed their appreciation to all involved for the successful program held on Saturday.

William Harman and Eusebio Mujal-Leon will continue as first and second Vice Presidents of the U.S.-Spain Council. José Antonio Pérez-Nievas will be the new Vice President of the Fundación Consejo España-Estados Unidos.

The Council decided to keep the membership at the present level, but to invite those members who have not actively participated in the last two-three years to step down to make way for new members who could make the necessary commitment for active participation.

The Council agreed to hold the VI Forum of the US-Spain Council in Valencia, proposing the tentative date of November 18-19, 2000. José Argüelles and Diego Asencio, respectively the Spanish and U.S. Secretary General of the Council, will be the point persons for the Valencia meeting.

Issues for discussion at the VI Forum will be:

"Language, Culture and Image", "Science and Technology, Research and Development: U.S.-Spanish Cooperation", "The Role of U.S. and Spanish Media in Latin America," "Trade, the WTO Millenium Round: Obstacles and Opportunities," "U.S. and Spanish General Elections and their Impact on the Bilateral Relationship." Some of these issues will be discussed during the working sessions and others will be presented by luncheon and breakfast speakers.

At the suggestion of Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson, it was agreed that a structure would be created within the Council to work on "science and technology" issues, so as to take advantage of the proposal made by the said Secretary of Energy for a cooperation between Spanish laboratories and five U.S. ones (Sandia, Los Alamos, and three others).

The Council decided that in the next Forum, each working session will allow time enough for a proper debate on the respective issues. In order to do this, only five to seven minutes will be allotted to speakers to present their topics. Speakers should send their papers to the organizers before the meeting so they can be distributed to the participants before hand. It was also agreed that the Secretary Generals of the Council would prepare summaries of the working sessions, to be distributed the following day.

The Council decided that the agenda for the next meeting should be sent out within the next two months, in an effort to obtain the highest possible level of participation in the next forum.

As regard to the Triangular meeting, Bill Hartman proposed, and the Council agreed, to hold it in Washington, D.C. or in New York or possibly in a third venue, in May of 2000, and to invite the U.S. Department of Commerce to become involved. The basic topic will be how to promote the access of small and medium size companies to the U.S. market. Bill Harman will get in touch with Angel Corcóstegui to discuss the place, time and agenda.

At the suggestion of Rector Manuel Gala, it was agreed to include sessions on universities and research, distance learning, and cooperation between U.S., Spanish and Latin American Universities.

As to the IDB meeting scheduled to take place in New Orleans in the year 2000, Antonio Garrigues stated that it would be interesting to attend the meeting, as long as the Council could have an active part in it.

Concerning the Young Leaders Program, after Diego Asencio's report was read, it was agreed that the Council set up a committee to study the possibilities of developing a program. This committee should meet in December of 1999. Emilio Lamo de Espinosa, Director of the Instituto Universitario Ortega y Gasset, and Antonio Garrigues, the new President of the Ortega y Gasset Foundation, will be part of that committee on the Spanish side. Douglas Becker of Sylvan and Diego Asencio will represent the American side.