

THE PEIT: A COMMITMENT TO PLANNING

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURES AND TRANSPORT PLAN PEIT

With the Strategic Infrastructures and Transport Plan (*Plan Estratégico de Infraestructuras y Transportes*, PEIT), the Ministry of Plublic Works and Transport (*Ministerio de Fomento*) recovers planning as the tool by which to frame its medium-term actions, and takes on a public commitment in the pursuit of the policies for which it is responsible.

Planning delivers the following to those responsible for decision-making, and to society as a whole:

- Adequate decision-making information. Planning allows action to be ordered according
 to certain criteria and priorities, and points to the consequences for other areas of action,
 facilitating the political decision-making phase, although never replacing that
 responsibility.
- A rigorous assessment of real necessities, and efficient allocation of limited resources.
 A lack of planning leads to an unlimited widening of proposals for action, and forces those responsible for public policies to concentrate on obtaining greater resources rather than on optimising their use.
- Transparent decision-making, widening the involvement in the process not just of the social-professional and financial sectors directly involved, but of the whole of society.
 Planning is a characteristic of a system of governance based on participation and the willingness of those responsible for public policies to account for their decisions and the results of such decisions to citizens.
- Anticipation of the effects of actions, and so an appropriate early response: synergies
 with other actions or policies, and corrective and accompanying measures facilitating
 the attainment of objectives, so that planning becomes an on-going and flexible process.
- Identification and clarification of the bases for coordination with other Administrations, and for monitoring resource allocation and the fulfilment of objectives.
- The creation of a stable framework for transport policy which in turn defines the scenario in which the economic sectors affected are to act.

The following are the most notable elements of the strategic planning dealt with in the PEIT:

- The creation of a coherent planning system for Ministry of Public Works and Transport policy as a whole, from strategic to sector planning, dealing with the planning of both infrastructures and transport services.
- To move forward in a planning system which, based on the objectives set for the transport sector, defines the most suitable future scenario and then identifies the measures and action best leading to that scenario.
- To incorporate social, environmental and territorial objectives on the same footing as their functional and economic counterparts.
- To consider the action which can help to attain the objectives set.
- To seek the active cooperation of the other Administrations to enhance coordination of action and reach the objectives set for the Plan, not just in relation to the actions the Ministry of Public Works and Transport must initiate in each region but also any complementary actions which might be implemented from other spheres in reaching the PEIT's objectives.
- To converge with the planning principles of the countries around us and of the European Union, particularly in the commitment to integrate sustainable development targets into the transport sector and to strengthen the principles underlying the common policy on transport and the Transeuropean networks.

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The PEIT thus deals with the planning of all action in the field of infrastructures and transport which are the competence of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. The plan's design takes account of the necessary cooperation and agreement with other Territorial Administrations.

Because of its nature as a STRATEGIC PLAN with a medium- to long-term horizon, the PEIT is structured as follows:

- It is based on a diagnosis of the present transport system in Spain.
- It defines the Objectives, specifying those already fixed in the Council of Ministers' Resolution of 16 July 2004.
- It proposes various alternatives or scenarios for action.
- It fixes monitoring indicators.
- It sets criteria and guidelines for intervention.
- It fixes short- and medium-term priorities for action.
- It defines future work, drafting the provisions, projects and programs for the Plan's implementation.
- It enhances the system for analysis of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport activities, proposing that feasibility studies be drawn up for new actions, along with statistics and base studies providing backup to future decision-making.
- It creates the economic-financial framework for its implementation.
- It commits itself to a Review in 2008/09, to revise objectives or to include new interventions as a consequence of the studies now set in motion.