

Foreword

The principal aim of the OECD Environmental Performance Review programme is to help member and selected partner countries improve their individual and collective performance in environmental management by:

- helping individual governments assess progress in achieving their environmental goals
- promoting continuous policy dialogue and peer learning
- stimulating greater accountability from governments towards each other and public opinion.

This report reviews the environmental performance of Spain since the previous OECD Environmental Performance Review in 2004. Progress in achieving domestic objectives and international commitments provides the basis for assessing the country's environmental performance. Such objectives and commitments may be broad aims, qualitative goals or quantitative targets. A distinction is made between intentions, actions and results. Assessment of environmental performance is also placed within the context of Spain's historical environmental record, present state of the environment, physical endowment in natural resources, economic conditions and demographic trends.

The OECD is indebted to the government of Spain for its co-operation in providing information, for the organisation of the review mission to Madrid and Valencia (25-29 November 2013) and for facilitating contacts both inside and outside government institutions.

Thanks are also due to all those who helped in the course of this review, to the representatives of member countries participating in the OECD Working Party on Environmental Performance and especially to the examining countries: Chile and France. The team that prepared this review comprised experts from reviewing countries: Mr Sebastián Avilés Bezanilla (Chile) and Mr Philippe Puydarrieux (France); members of the OECD Secretariat: Ms Kathleen Dominique, Mr Brendan Gillespie, Ms Nathalie Girouard, Ms Eva Hübner, Mr Krzysztof Michalak, Ms Sara Moarif, Ms Alexa Piccolo; and Mr Andreas Kontoleon and Mr Roberto Martín-Hurtado (consultants). Ms Carla Bertuzzi, Ms Clara Tomasini (OECD Secretariat) and Mr Mark Foss (consultant) provided statistical and editorial support during the preparation of the report. Preparation of this report also benefited from comments provided by other members of the OECD Secretariat.

The OECD Working Party on Environmental Performance discussed the draft Environmental Performance Review of Spain at its meeting on 29 October 2014 in Paris, and approved the Assessment and Recommendations.



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