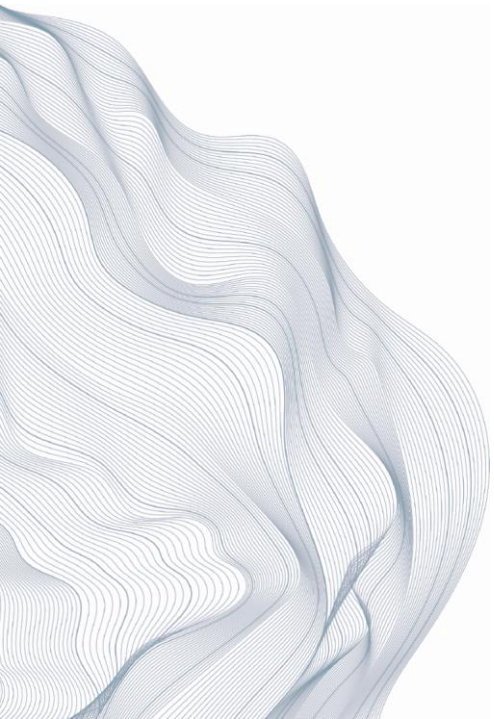


# FORO LA TOJA

VÍNCULO ATLÁNTICO

# 2021





# PREMIO "FORO LA TOJA-VÍNCULO ATLAS"

**D. José Ángel Gurría**  
Ex-secretario general de la OCDE





THIRD EDITION

# Foro La Toja

VÍNCULO ATLÁNTICO

This new edition of the **Foro La Toja** brings us closer to consolidating a project created three years ago in the hope that it would become a space for reflection and public conversation. An open, plural platform for a much-needed dialogue in a transition to a digital, green economy that is more dynamic, competitive and resilient – a fairer society that generates opportunities and a more integrating, inclusive and stable democracy.

With the aim of immortalising the 3rd edition of the **Foro la Toja – Vínculo Atlántico**, in this brief conclusions paper we have drawn up the event's main headlines and messages, which hopefully will let you relive some of the intense moments shared in A Toxa.

We hope the new year will continue to forge the path to recovery and that our **Foro La Toja** can carry on proving its long-term commitment, making it an unmissable date in the October calendar.



# Conclusions

## *1. Facing a new working reality after the pandemic*

The pandemic has highlighted the centrality of work in society and the economy. Essential jobs have proven to be vital to maintaining coexistence and sound economic performance. We have also experienced the consolidation of remote working and how it has become mainstreamed in our economic structures. Paradoxically, we are dealing with labour shortages in some sectors while suffering from the effects of unstructured unemployment, which affects workers of all ages. We find ourselves waking up to the fact that many tasks are going to disappear, but not necessarily the jobs themselves – which is why it is crucial to retrain workers to help them adapt to the new circumstances.

## *2. Europe in the face of digitalisation*

Europe has certain deficits in the digitalisation race resulting from a lack of leading tech companies and limited capacity for innovation. Nevertheless, there are other strengths it can adopt in its role as regulator of individual rights and of digital services and markets. Europe and the United States need to fortify and intensify their alliance to democratically regulate the digital world. Both sides of the Atlantic should also play a key role in a matter as important as cybersecurity, which has a powerful impact on geopolitics.

## *3. The great responsibility of environmental commitment*

We find ourselves right in the middle of transition towards a new energy model based on clean energy. This entails costs and interventions in a framework that ensures a joint public-private sector effort to achieve the goal of decarbonisation. The aim is clear, but we need to mark the paths to reach it and these programmes must be accurately drawn up. We are the last generation that can successfully manage this challenge, as the next will no longer be in time to successfully address the fight for and against climate change.

## *4. Faced with a clear economic recovery*

Post-pandemic recovery looks set to be an intense, protracted endeavour with a significant revival in consumption and exports. And to speed it up, we must take advantage of three factors that were not present in previous crises: The Next Generation European Funds, the role of the Central European Bank (very different to that of previous recessions) and the suspension of the fiscal rules associated with the Stability and Growth Pact.

Nonetheless, in addition to short-term recovery, medium- and long-term challenges need to be addressed with structural reforms that ensure sustainable growth based on competitiveness, but also on social cohesion. Decent, stable and well-paid jobs can only stem from an increase in our competitiveness.

## *5. Need for industrial policy*

Efforts need to be made to have an industrial policy that helps to limit the vulnerability of certain essential supplies displaced by the global value chain. These supplies range from healthcare products to microprocessors.

Public-private collaboration and coordinated European policy is vital.

## *6. Tuning public-private partnerships*

The successful public-private collaboration we have experienced in the pandemic needs to be extended to other areas and purposes, such as the proper allocation of European funds. They need to be intelligently invested in improving our productive system.

## *7. The new geostrategic balance*

The most recent events in Afghanistan force us to learn lessons and draw conclusions about the global geopolitical scenario and the role played by Europe, Latin America, Spain and Portugal. Europe must assert itself as an independent, reliable and credible partner in the common endeavour for collective security and defence. If we want to position ourselves, we must be consistent and understand that the change in the rules of the game and strategic focus activity force us to rethink the role of the Old Continent and the nature of the Atlantic link.

### *8 Strategic autonomy in defence and security*

Own response mechanisms need to be established in the short term for crisis situations. We need to assume our responsibilities in terms of defence and security, which entails budget commitment, a coordinated industrial policy and a better understanding on all fronts. It is important to strengthen the partnership with a willingness to be autonomous in order to face up to the big challenge posed by China, which despite being a powerful competitor in trade matters and an adversary in democratic values, must become a partner of the West in light of certain global problems that transcend borders.

### *9 The roles of Spain and Portugal in Europe*

Europe must concentrate its efforts on what is closest and must be aware that, as a political project and a common space, it should intensify integration. Spain and Portugal are very much needed here and should adopt a proactive role, because Europe is an essential framework for our future and defending it against the Eurosceptics is more vital now than ever.

### *10 Looking towards Latin America.*

Latin America has a western character that today is at dire risk – at the mercy of the threat of authoritarian and populist regimes, as well as policies that promote a return to a pre-Colombian identity that translates into a pre-Western mentality. The Latin American community needs to be strengthened and provided with real, concrete content to help to create a common European policy towards the region. For this to happen, it needs to believe in itself, advance in its integration processes and project itself as a region to the rest of the world.







## La Toja Forum 2021

“ His Majesty King Felipe VI was in charge of officially opening the 3rd edition of the Foro La Toja.

This opening ceremony, which marked the start of the forum's events, was followed by nine sessions with the participation of more than forty prominent speakers from the economic, political and social world.”

# Opening Session



Amancio López Seijas,  
President of Hotusa Group

Nadia Calviño,  
First Deputy Prime Minister of Spain

Alberto Núñez Feijóo,  
President of the Regional  
Government of Galicia  
**Presentation of the Award  
"Foro La Toja".**

Ángel Gurría,  
Former Secretary-General of the  
OECD (Organisation for Economic  
Cooperation and Development)

His Majesty King Felipe VI

## What was said

All rights and freedoms attained in terms of security, coexistence and opportunities should prevail against any threat.

Spain and Portugal play a crucial role because of their ties with Latin America and their membership of the European Union.

The most important challenges the world is facing are global, so they need multilateral responses, such as the 2030 Agenda – a “multilateral agenda” par excellence that embraces the most ambitious goals humanity has ever aimed for.

The aid provided by the European Union's recovery plan is an historic opportunity that includes all companies, citizens and territories within a framework of solidarity and harmony, without putting self-interest before building a better common future.

The world is facing surprising challenges. La Toja Forum is a place where people come to dialogue, find common grounds and build bridges.

What has been achieved in terms of rights and freedoms, security, coexistence and opportunities for all must prevail over any threat that could jeopardise our hard-won gains.

We cannot allow a fortuitous or circumstantial perception of these achievements to take hold. We are all part of it and have so much to do to move forward.



## The Forum on social media



### His Majesty the King

“The speed of the transformations taking place give purpose to this meeting, where [#dialogue](#) helps to clarify current trends without abandoning ideals.”

### Ángel Gurría

“Today we are meeting to celebrate, defend and consolidate [#multilateralism](#), and to endorse our collective and individual convictions that a multilateral approach is not only the best, but in most cases and challenges, it’s the only approach that can work medium and long term.”

### Nadia Calviño

“We’re strengthening the [#bonds](#) that unite us so that in ten years’ time we can look back and confirm that 2021 was the year in which we took the decisions that laid the foundations for a better [#future](#).”

### Amancio López

“The world is facing surprising challenges. We must commit to [#digitalisation](#), educational systems that guarantee social advancement and also a liberal, representative [#democracy](#), equal opportunities and social protection.”

### Alberto Núñez Feijóo

“[#Democracy](#) can’t defend itself, but it’s the only regime capable of self-reflection. Liberal democracy should be a synonym of [#strength](#).”

## 1. TABLE

# The New Geostrategic Balance



## Speakers

Enrique Iglesias,  
Former Ibero-American Secretary-  
General  
Augusto Santos Silva,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
Portugal

José Manuel Albares,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, European  
Union and Cooperation

### MODERATOR

Josep Piqué,  
President of La Toja  
Forum

## What was said

Latin America is the world's most "Euro-compatible" region; the futures of Europe and LatAm share the same challenges and both areas are key to recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

Europe must be master of its destiny by opening up to other regional blocs.

We are currently facing major problems in terms of imbalance: the relationship with China (with whom there should be a spirit of competition, not confrontation) and the AUKUS alliance – becoming a sign of a profound division and which has generated mistrust from Europe.

Latin America, who's main partner is Spain, is going to play a key role in the future of humanity. There will be no climate pact without Latin America, as it holds a third of the world's drinking water, 40% of plant species and a third of the global population.

The Forum on social media



### Enrique Iglesias

"We haven't separated [#inequality](#) from [#growth](#). Inequality is present. The expectations generated and the inability to resolve them are significant."



### Augusto Santos Silva

"There is a danger not all can see, and despite not being so obvious, it could run deeper: a certain inability by [#Europe](#) to understand that it needs to open up in several directions at the same time."



### José Manuel Albares

"[#Spain](#) is one of the few countries in the world with a global vision and participation in all [#crises](#) and in their resolution. This is largely down to the Spanish language, which connects us to the rest of the world. The challenge is to hear the voice of [#Spain](#)."



### Josep Piqué

"Rather than discussing geostrategic balance, we need to talk about "imbalance" and "disorder", and why the [#world](#) is moving so fast, unlike the systemically bipolar world my [#generation](#) lived in."



## 2. TABLE

# Digitalisation: the rules of the game



## Speakers

**Sir Julian King,**  
Former European Commissioner

Enrique Goñi,  
President of the Instituto Hermes

Janka Oertel,  
Director of the Asia Programme at the  
ECFR (European Council on Foreign  
Relations)

MODERATOR  
**Carlos López Blanco,**  
Senior Adviser at Flint Global

## What was said

After the elections in Germany, it is most likely a different approach will be taken and this will have an effect on Europe's position. We are going to see a different attitude and this will have consequences on the digital agenda.

Time is of the essence. We never imagined there would be so many fast-moving changes. We must also accelerate the processes of the transatlantic conversation. China is not dormant, and this makes the other countries depend on it.

There is no digital constitution, or digital rights regulation, only data protection. We can't continue to observe the digital threat and do nothing. The political class is very sensitive to this subject, although it is not on its agenda.

We need to address how we can coordinate with partners such as Russia and China, who are unwilling to cooperate on cyber security. We should not collaborate solely with the US; we must also work with Japan, Australia or the UK.

The Forum on social media



### Sir Julian King

"There is tension between the [#US](#) and the [#EU](#). Historically, there have been differences in regulation, in privacy data, and in competitiveness. There are also discrepancies with [#China](#), although [#Europe](#) has tended to be more careful when it comes to breaking ties with this country."



### Janka Oertel

"[#China](#) has already changed the game; we can't follow the same old rules. Can we get them back in the game? Do we have to follow their rules or are we going to lose a game we didn't know we were playing?"



### Enrique Goñi

"We aren't technophobes. We want [#technology](#) with rights and guaranteed by a monitoring system as individual freedoms, for example, are subverted on a daily basis in this environment."



### Carlos López Blanco

"The scramble for geostrategic dominance has its battlefield in the [#digital](#) world with AI, quantum computing, etc. And this is the field chosen by [#China](#) and the [#US](#) to take over [#geostrategic](#) leadership."

### 3. TABLE

## The future of employment



### Speakers

Sara de la Rica, Director of ISEAK  
(Initiative for Socio-Economic Analysis  
and Knowledge)

Carl Benedikt Frey, Director, Future of  
Work, Oxford Martin School, University of  
Oxford

Javier Pereiro Managing Director of the  
Fundación Empresa - Universidad  
Gallega

Antonio Huertas, President of  
MAPFRE

MODERATOR  
Antón Costas, President of the  
Economic and Social Council

### What was said

Demographic change with fewer young people will allow talent to be imported. But the continuous requalification is almost a national pact. We all have to embrace this readjustment and large companies have a key role to play because they have greater capacity for innovation and training.

Presence is necessary because we are social beings, but travel is not always necessary and remote working allows for a better work-life balance. In Spain there are already hybrid models in place.

The educational model is characterised by a high level of quality in public education, but also by a shortage of skills needed by companies. The educational world needs a reform that integrates the learning of skills needed by the professional world.

We must be able to build a social bridge strong enough for parents not to have to take early retirement so their children can access jobs.

We need to align vocational and university education with the needs of businesses. Training centres must be opened up to professionals.

### The Forum on social media



#### Sara de la Rica

"I have found remote working to be a tremendous social experiment. We all asked ourselves why in-person work was so important, above all in terms of the gender gap. Remote working has landed as a [#solution](#)."



#### Carl Benedikt Frey

"[#Remote working](#) mustn't jeopardise [#productivity](#). We shouldn't overlook the fact that face-to-face interactions stimulate [#innovation](#), and we can't lose this."



#### Javier Pereiro

"In addition to skill, professionals of the future will need a [#transversal approach](#), ability to work in a [#team](#), curiosity, [#ethics](#), and the desire for continuous learning."



#### Antonio Huertas

"If we want a [#low cost](#) economy, we'll only have low cost jobs and a low cost society. If we want to defend decent jobs and a welfare state, we need [#solidarity](#) and social [#awareness](#)."



#### Antón Costas

"The social disrepute of [#VET](#) needs to be corrected to tackle the employment problem. Young people with second level vocational training have an unemployment rate of 7.6%, and those with first level VET have an unemployment rate of 5%, in addition to better salaries than most [#graduates](#)."



## 4. TABLE

# Conversation



## Speakers

Mariano Rajoy, Former Prime Minister of Spain

Felipe González, Former Prime Minister of Spain

MODERATOR  
Gloria Lomana, Journalist, writer and political analyst.

## What was said

The aim of dialogue is to seek centrality, which allows for diversity of thought, a sense of permanence and the possibility of reaching a consensus.

Agreements are necessary – they bring stability, certainty and security, and efforts must be made to achieve them, even if lately they have been lacking.

The dialogue in Catalonia must be handled in accordance with the Constitution. There has to be a dialogue respecting the rules in order not to lose legal certainty, one that brings and attracts investment.

Foreign and military policy in Europe is necessary and compatible with holding a position in NATO and good relations with the US.

We can have a rapid reaction force, connected and coordinated with NATO for ad hoc actions.

There's a proliferation of "depots" or "inquisitors" who are preventing the free speech and thought of others. Politics is becoming more and more polarised and dispersed by the day.

## The Forum on social media



## Mariano Rajoy

"It's important that the [#dialogue](#) leads to consensus and agreement. I miss a minimum threshold of understanding in some matters. No [#agreements](#) have been reached in the major topics that Spanish people are interested in: the battle against the pandemic, Catalonia, European funds. There has been no [#consensus](#) in important issues."



## Felipe González

"The Spanish economy is going to bounce back with a vengeance, but we need to stress that this [#recovery](#) depends on the people. We have to get the country moving forward through hard work, improving [#competitiveness](#) and [#productivity](#). Recovery won't rain down upon us like manna from heaven, we have to make it happen."



## Gloria Lomana

"Both former presidents can be considered "immoderate" when it comes to defending commonly built spaces and certain [#values](#). However, they are very "moderate" when it comes to seeking common [#ground](#) and [#dialogue](#)."

## 5. TABLE

# Tools for recovery



### Speakers

Cristina Herrero President of the AIREF (Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility)

Pablo Hernández de Cos, Governor of the Bank of Spain

Ángel Ubide Managing Director of Citadel LLC

MODERATOR  
José Juan Ruiz, President of Real Instituto Elcano

### What was said

We must focus on carrying out reforms in governance. It's fundamental that Spain and Europe design a fiscal consolidation programme to be implemented gradually after the end of the crisis, in order to make way for a solid path to recovery.

Fiscal consolidation is not synonymous with short-term cuts, but with efficiency of public resources and sustainability of the welfare state.

It is clear that the climate change is going to generate an effect on monetary policy and inflation. That's why there is a need to develop other models. Some believe that such investment will improve productivity and others think it will cause the natural rate of interest to fall.

The Forum on social media



#### Cristina Herrero

"AIREF was created in association with the financial crisis which showed how the public finances needed organisations that contribute to the [#sustainability](#) of their analysis. Their role is [#fiscal](#) surveillance, but in its broader context of sustainability."



#### Pablo Hernández de Cos

"I'm going to apply a maxim for fiscal and monetary policy: [#evolution](#), but not [#revolution](#). It's important to pay attention to differentiation because when we are in a historical moment we think that everything must change, but there are aspects that can be maintained."



#### Ángel Ubide

"We have a historic opportunity ahead of us – whether to [#invest](#) or [#save](#). In 2008 we saved to reduce the debt and become stronger before the next crisis. Now we have to invest, take on [#risks](#), boost growth and the resilience of the economies."



#### José Juan Ruiz

"As a result of the pandemic, very [#innovative](#), [#radical](#) and [#unorthodox](#) policies have been implemented that haven't followed the theory. We now need stable policies that will allow us to continue to grow, generate inclusion and face current economic [#challenges](#). This means rebuilding the institutions and returning to the rules, to discipline ourselves."



## 6. TABLE

# Afghanistan and its impact on the new world order



## Speakers

Bruno Maçães, Political Expert

Shlomo Ben Ami, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel

Leon Panetta, Former US Secretary of Defence and Former CIA Director

Timothy Garton Ash, Professor of European Studies at the University of Oxford

Áurea Moltó, Director of Política Exterior journal

MODERATOR

Josep Piqué, President of the La Toja Forum

## What was said

The US withdrawal is symptomatic of a shift in focus towards the Indo-Pacific area in the face of China's rise.

There is a need to determine a joint strategic role for Europe to become a power in its own right.

We must accept that mistakes have been made and these need to be corrected. Many European governments feel deceived.

Europe has to be more proactive in the context of transatlantic relations. If we have power, we'll also have decision-making capacity, and advisory capacity.

If they wish to protect the common values of democracy, the US and Europe have no choice but to work together in the face of an uncertain and polarised world. We must unite to create an alliance that can defend liberal and democratic values.

The Forum on social media



### Bruno Maçães

"#Afghanistan has been a strategic and logistical failure. I was surprised to arrive at #Kabul the week before it fell and see that everyone knew it would fall while in the US they said it would take months. It was a complete contradiction."



### Shlomo Ben Ami

"When an alliance doesn't include #Europe, global power is undermined. Europe needs to be more active and participative. If we are going to enter a phase of diplomacy and defence, it's important to have leverage to ward off an appearance of weakness."



### Timothy Garton Ash

"At times in #Europe we confuse European sovereignty with European power. We need more power in Europe, as partners of the #US and other liberal democracies to preserve what we can from world disorder."



### Leon Panetta

"There's much #polarisation and division, but we must work together. Without leadership, we will lose the trust of the people and of the democracy. That's why we must work together to achieve future peace and prosperity."



### Áurea Moltó

"#Spain has an important accompanying role because of its capacity, its Atlantic essence and its presence in #NATO. It can accompany and promote strategies with other countries – such as the European Defence Policy – and also generate new alliances."

## 7. TABLE

# Funding the autonomous regions: addressing diversity and cohesion



## Speakers

Alberto Núñez Feijóo, President of the Regional Government of Galicia

Ximo Puig, President of the Valencian Government

Emiliano García-Page, President of the Regional Government of Castile-La Mancha.

Alfonso Fernández Mañueco, President of the Regional Government of Castilla y León.

MODERATOR

Pilar Cernuda, Journalist, writer and political analyst.

## What was said

Funding is the big problem facing the Autonomous Communities. Expenditure is largely structural and non-waivable, linked to education, health, public transport or housing. There is no room for flexibility, and reducing it is difficult.

European funds have a positive impact but should not be seen as a gift. We must take care to prevent them from being used to stabilise expenditure that we cannot then finance.

We are recovering from a pandemic that has reinforced the Autonomous Communities. The State is strengthened by this, and it's undoubtedly a positive contribution for Spain in all sectors, without bias.

We are experiencing two anomalies in Spanish democracy: First anomaly: It is easier to reach an agreement with the regional presidents than the national parliament. COVID has proven this. Perhaps it has something to do with the second anomaly: we regional presidents have a greater independence with regard to our parties than is the case in national politics.

## The Forum on social media



### Alberto Núñez Feijóo

"The [#pandemic](#) has been the best example of single-handed management by autonomous communities and their [#presidents](#)."



### Ximo Puig

"The autonomous communities manage three of the four pillars of the welfare state and ensuring their viability is a priority. This is associated with [#taxation](#). If there's a single market, there should be a single market for taxation, [#dumping](#) can't be allowed as it creates tension."



### Emiliano García-Page

"The autonomous communities, except the Basque Country and Navarra, are not there to generate 17 different markets and economies. Fragmentation is not the best path. It is better to work towards [#convergence](#) and [#cohesion](#)".



### Alfonso Fernández Mañueco

"It's important to consolidate the COVID [#funds](#). Health and education are going to continue needing public expenditure."



### Pilar Cernuda

"The four presidents participating at the roundtable have been very assertive about the need to solve the problem of [#funding](#). They agree on important issues."



## 8. TABLE

# The commitment to the environment. An urgent challenge



### Speakers

Laurence Tubiana, CEO of European Climate Foundation

Ignacio Sánchez Galán, President of Iberdrola

Miguel Arias Cañete, Former EU Commissioner

MODERATOR  
Lara Lázaro, Researcher at Real Instituto Elcano

### What was said

Studies indicate that emissions will go up rather than down; we are going in the wrong direction. That is why it is important to keep the spirit of Paris alive. We need more cooperation and generosity, and greater climate funding.

The CO2 tax serves to help those countries most vulnerable to the transition. Financial flows need to be aligned with climate objectives.

The EU embodies a successful model because it has reduced numbers and improved the economy and the quality of life of its citizens.

With the recovery plans we have created a debt that will be present for a long time to come. We must invest these funds well to preserve the planet for future generations who will have to bear these costs.

### The Forum on social media



#### Emile Laurence Tubiana

"Although political problems exist, the fact that 27 countries have united (EU) to form a programme of ecological and social transformation is incredible. It's an [#ecological](#) and [#economic](#) [#revolution](#) that should rally up all our enthusiasm."



#### Ignacio Sánchez Galán

"[#Governments](#), with varying degrees of commitment, are feeling [#public](#) pressure and now everyone wants to be green."



#### Miguel Arias Cañete

"The best favour you can do for a developing country is to launch capacity-building actions and convince it of the need for a stable regulatory framework to attract the private sector and [#investment](#). The transformation will not be brought about by the public sector,"



#### Lara Lázaro

"Studies indicate that [#emissions](#) will go up rather than down; we are heading in the wrong direction. But some countries are already at work and it's important to maintain the spirit of Paris alive. We need more [#cooperation](#) and [#generosity](#), and to increase climate funding."

## 9. TABLE

# The key players in the recovery process



## Speakers

Juan Carlos Escotet, President of ABANCA

José Vicente de los Mozos, Executive Vice-President of Renault Group

Ignacio Rivera, CEO of Hijos de Rivera Corporation

MODERATOR

Fátima Báñez, President of the Fundación CEOE (Spanish Confederation of Business Organisations)

## What was said

We must harness the spirit of change to carry out structural reform. Improving our innovative ecosystem without strengthening collaboration between companies, universities and innovation centres is unthinkable. Companies are a necessary bridge, as they create investment and opportunities.

We must ensure that young people have jobs, that all Europeans have access to training and nobody is left behind; that is why there are policies for social cohesion. If we do not adapt quickly to the new digital world, we'll have a problem.

Talent is one of the strategic assets in the development of any country or company. It is the way to stand out above the rest, along with technology.

The pandemic has shown that it is possible to work in a different way. We need to create an ecosystem that generates collaboration with leaner and more streamlined organisations." Multidisciplinary work teams are needed and, in conjunction with that, also a change in the layout of the physical spaces themselves.

## The Forum on social media



### Juan Carlos Escotet

"For the first time three [generations](#) are going to coexist: boomers, X and millennials, all with different perspectives. They cannot be considered the same value proposition. We must create an ecosystem of collaboration with more streamlined organisations."



### José Vicente de los Mozos

"European funds are going to be a booster to accelerate the changes taking place in [Europe](#) and society in general. We must establish strategic axes and one of them is [reindustrialisation](#). We've lost a percentage of industry."



### Ignacio Rivera

"European funds are a one-off contribution, there's still time to receive them but we'll have to see how [Europe](#) is going to transform. We must manage them sensibly. In our case, for example, with technological agriculture."



### Fátima Báñez

"The European Union should focus on three goals: provide [young people](#) with jobs, offer [training](#) to all people, and that nobody is left behind by social [cohesion](#) policies. In this process companies are a necessary bridge, as they create [investment](#) and [opportunities](#)."

# Closing Session



## Speakers

Josep Piqué,  
President of La Toja  
Forum

Antonio Costa, Prime Minister  
of Portugal

Pedro Sánchez,  
President of the Spanish  
Government

## What was said

The La Toja Forum is not just a space for debate, but also for coming together. We must fully restore this spirit.

Collaboration is needed between Spain and Portugal as economic players and gateways to the European Union, thanks to the AVE connection between the two countries, linking the Mediterranean and Atlantic Corridors with the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal.

There is no lasting alternative to the Euro-Atlantic alliance that unites the North and South Atlantic and links North America, Europe, West Africa and Latin America, making it a fundamental pillar of democracy and the global economy.

Spain and Portugal are on a historic mission: to prevent the excessive continentalisation of the EU.

We must strengthen Spanish democracy and comply with its Constitution. This is a guarantee, and weakening or denigrating it undermines state capacity.

The Forum on social media



### Pedro Sánchez

"The welfare state should combine [#growth](#) and [#cohesion](#). Following the [#pandemic](#), we have to work for everyone and rely on the support of institutions, companies and citizens. This recovery should be based on disruptive transitions: [#digital](#) and [#environmental](#)."



### Antonio Costa

"[#Europe](#) must take to the seas once again, as [#Spain](#) and [#Portugal](#) did in the 15th century, to the unexplored world of the oceans."



### Josep Piqué

"The [#Atlantic](#) link is a geographical and cultural one, but also one of shared values that are embodied in a representative democracy, a free market social economy, open societies, and a liberal international order. In a nutshell, this is the essence of the La Toja Forum -Atlantic link, which in its first edition has honoured Ángel Gurría."



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