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SPAIN, A NEW COUNTRY OF IMMIGRATION IN EUROPE

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Rezumat : *Spania, noua destinație a imigrației în Europa.* Datorită poziției geografice Spania este o punte între Europa, America Latină și lumea islamică. Această localizare a avut o influență decisivă în momentul inserției acestei țări în circuitele migrației internaționale. Nu întâmplător, principalele fluxuri migratorii direcționate spre această țară provin din America Latină și din sud-estul Europei.

Acest articol descrie emigrația contemporană din Spania, stat cu o poziție geopolitică cheie în circuitele migrației mondiale. Sunt analizate cauzele acestor migrații și politicile spaniole în domeniul regularizării imigranților ca și efectele pe termen lung ale fenomenului migratoriu.

Key Words: *migratory flows, Spain, immigration, Europe*

Introduction:

The great population movements through the geographic space have been a constant in the history of mankind. Nevertheless, the causes of the displacements, as much as their characteristics and consequences, varied a lot throughout the centuries generating every time their own migratory types. These movements have constituted on the long run a demographic problem for the home countries and represented at the destination a problem that every time became more and more difficult to solve. The last statistics of the United Nations (April 2006) revealed that, in the world, there are around 190 million emigrants, almost 36 million more than five years ago. The industrialized countries are the main receivers, 60% of the total ending up there.

Spain made its debut as emigration destination country in the 21st century, and this condition is due, in the first place, to its geo-strategic position as front door of Europe and bridge of encounter among several continents. If we were to add to it the attractiveness that it has for the citizens of the former Eastern Europe in their search for new opportunities, we can affirm that the present century, as far as emigration is concerned, is Spanish.

1. Migratory currents in the European Union

Although globalisation has many faces, one of the most well known is the one of the migrations or spatial population movements among regions or continents responding to political, religious, ethnic, economic or, even, individual lifestyle preference motivations. The international migratory currents do not happen randomly. They follow pre-existing channels, established sometimes decades back between nations with close relationships and that can originate in colonialism, war, military occupation, recruitment of manual labour or economic exchange.

If throughout the entire 21st century the migratory currents toward Europe were important, then it is from the '70s when they increase due, fundamentally, to the changes happened in the Western panorama. From the beginning of the consecutive recession to the ascent of the prices of the petroleum in 1973, that was translated in the oil crisis, the governments that previously encouraged the admission of foreigners decided to restrain their hiring, authorizing the permanence of those who already were in their territory and facilitating the reunification with their near relatives. The global population of migrants in Europe increased from 18,7 million in 1970 to 22,2 million in 1980. At the beginning of the 80s, the economic configuration of Europe was in the heat of change. The currents towards Europe increased and diversified in the middle of the 80s, when the communist regimes of some East Europe countries began to liberalize the travelling conditions to foreign countries or to lax on the emigration of certain ethnic groups (Jewish and ethnic Germans). Between 1985 and 1989, Germany accepted an annual average of 284 000 people by means of the return of ethnic Germans, who were given the citizenship upon return, and of emigrants from Eastern Europe; between 1990 and 1994 this number reached half a million (Zlotnik, 1998). At the end of the 90s, the net emigration from those countries diminished and reached about 280 000 people per year. Meanwhile, the number of ethnic Germans abroad diminished and the Government adopted measures to restrain emigration. In the entire Europe, during the 80s the number of international migrants increased to 4,1 million to sum up 26,3 million in the 90s.

Between 1990 and 2000, the EU received more than 2 million requests for asylum from citizens originating in the countries of the former Eastern block. The disintegration of Yugoslavia - the war in Croatia in 1991 and the confrontation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992 - gave rise to the exodus of about half a million people per year between 1990 and 1994 (ONU, 2002). Although the statute of refugee was only granted to a reduced number of applicants, the permanence of many was authorized for humanitarian reasons.

In the middle of the 90s, most of the EU member states had reinforced their asylum policies, while countries like Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom registered increases in the asylum requests at the end of the 90s, tendency that went on until the beginnings of the 21st century, given the ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan, western Asia and certain parts of Sub-Saharan Africa.

These tendencies were reinforced, along with the events in the ex-Soviet Union that changed the emigration rates from 2.3% in 1990 to 3.9% in 2000. Yet, in 2000 there were 32.8 million emigrants in the EU space. (Viruela Martinez, 2002). Although the migration towards most of the countries continues being restricted, the foreign workers are an important part of the labour force of many of those countries.

In 2004, the foreign workers represented at least 5% of the labour force in 8 of the 16 receiving European countries (OECD, 2005). That is why it is not surprising that in the small Luxembourg 61% of the labour force is foreign, 18% in Switzerland and 13% in Austria. In practically all the countries that have data on these tendencies, the proportion of foreign workers in the labour force increased in the past years. That increase was marked particularly, in relative terms, in destination countries such as Italy, Norway and Spain.

In 2005, the EU counted two million new inhabitants, half of them distributed between Spain (652 300) and Italy (338 100). If it were not for these emigrants, the population of the 25 would have descended remarkably. The Eurostat data (2006) reflects that Spain, Italy, United Kingdom and Germany have received in the last year 76% of the migrants to Europe. But Cyprus, with a population of 773 000 people and that received 20,700 emigrants, was the country that, in relative terms, most foreigners welcomed in 2005. In 2005, the migratory balance between communitarian citizens who emigrated outside the EU and those that arrived from third countries to EU's 25 countries has diminished to 300 000 people according to the Eurostat.

2. The geopolitical position of Spain in the global context of the migratory flows

In order to define the geopolitical paper of Spain it is necessary to state its geographic situation in the western end of the Eurasian continental mass. It is the south-western border of Europe. Spain is a portion of the Iberian Peninsula, the most western and most important in terms of surface in the peninsular complex, that constitutes the European noon and projects within the Mediterranean Sea towards the African continent. (Bosque, 2002)

It is part of Europe and of the Mediterranean world, ancient crib of mankind history, an original regional set formed by a mountain circle that surrounds an inner sea where Europe, Asia and Africa have been blending and combining their influences for millenniums. (Isnard, 1973) This privileged situation gave rise to two neo historical movements that conjugated on the Spanish territory: the one oriented from East to West (Mediterranean-Atlantic movement) and the one oriented from North to South (Euro African movement).

The study of the communication lines from the end of the Middle Age, when the technical conditions facilitated oceanic navigation, indicates that it was defined a line of expansion from the peninsula to the Canary and Azores Islands and from there towards the Southern Atlantic. Previously, another penetration line, the North-South, was defined from the Palaeolithic and the Neolithic, trajectory that further on was followed in descendent direction by the vandals until settling down later in the present Morocco. The ancestors wanted to assure a defensive strip in the Principality of Morocco to control the sea of Alborán and the other access to the Straits and to prevent the possibility of new attacks from the South.

But these routes were not only transit routes to America or the Magreb, but also they were routes through which the invasions ran: from the South took place the first Islamic big wave and those that later on followed, and from the Atlantic took place the great Viking and Normand attacks in the Middle Ages, people that were able to get in up the rivers to the heart of the Peninsula. This tendency has not changed throughout the ages: at present, migration constitutes a true tide from the South to the North, and the East to the West.

Therefore, given its geographic situation, Spain is an advanced bi-directional route of two lines of expansion: North-South and East-West. Furthermore it occupies a third of the Atlantic facade of Europe. The way to understand the geopolitical position of Spain, as vertex in which Mediterranean European and Atlantic influences blend, conditions the outer projection of the country.

Portugal, Morocco and the United Kingdom are, in addition to France, the nations that neighbour Spain by imperatives of either geography or history. Double vicinity, geographic and historical in the case of Morocco, deriving as much from the small maritime space, that separates them as from the physical location of Ceuta and Melilla. This makes Spain the only European State with the feet in the African continent, the only one materially located in Africa. There also exists the Hispanic-Britannic vicinity with Gibraltar, vicinity contradicted by geography, but legitimised by history. (Cajal, 2003)

Starting from the transition period, one of the greater efforts of the first democratic governments of Spain was the integration in the Euro-Atlantic institutions: firstly in the Atlantic Alliance NATO, and secondly in the European

Union. This step represented the total overcoming of the dictatorial epoch, and with it, the full stop to the exclusion of the country from the European circuit. One should not forget that ever since 1982 one of the axes of the Spanish foreign policy has been ending to the isolation of the country within the European sphere, thus ending 150 years of "solitude". And from that moment on the foreign policy in particular experienced a strong Europeanization.

Once that the era of the bipolarity ended, the world shifted to a single-pole instability situation, and at this new stage, the geopolitical paper of Spain far from softening, heightened in the perspective of a multi-polar world in which Spain is the South-Western border of Europe and, therefore, the advance post in the communications with three outer blocks of Eurasia: the Magreb, Latin America and the United States (Arenal, 2005).

Each one of these geopolitical actors interacts thus contributing to the creation of the future of Spain that, inevitably, is going to be tied to the one of the EU, more than to the one of any other block. Still, at the same time, Spain will have to overcome new kinds of problems.

And among the new challenges of the 21st century that Spain faces at the moment, we pointed out the emigration, one of the subjects of greater economic, social and political importance to the country. Along with the decrease in the birth rate and the increase in life expectancy at birth, emigration is one of the components of greater relevance in the recent evolution of the Spanish demography. (Puyol, 2005)

The new position of Spain as emigration country will have to withstand, in a horizon of important changes, two key facts: on the one hand, the extension of the EU and on the other hand the unstoppable and complex process of globalisation.

3. The unexpected thing of emigration to Spain

During the last ten years Spain switched from being an emigration source to being an emigration destiny, in clear convergence with the other countries in the EU. It became an emigration destiny to people from all over the world: Communitarian and Eastern Europe, Africa and, of course, Ibero-America. The statistics are deceitful, mainly due to the dimensions of clandestine emigration.

Emigration entered the political agenda of the Spanish government in 1985, but only since the middle of the 90s did it gets to be a subject of crucial importance for the political elite and the public opinion (Izquierdo, 1996). The pronounced increase in the number of foreign residents in recent years, the controversy untied by the new carried out regularization in 2005, the establishment of a political frame for emigration, has contributed to establishing emigration as one of the subjects of great importance in Spain.

The strong increase in migratory flows takes place within the framework of a productive system and a labour market that display a series of structural characteristics, to some of which important problems regarding the attainment of high levels of economic development, competitiveness and employment are associated: high levels of temporary labour and high employee turnover, unemployment and inactivity, a considerable volume of underground economy, a productive structure dominated by small companies and strong territorial differences in the labour market indicators, combined with the low mobility of the active population. (Maderuelo, 2005)

3.1. The migratory currents toward Spain

In the period between 1850 and 1950, three and a half million Spanish people originating mainly in one of these three regions: the Canary Islands, Galicia and Asturias left Spain course to the Americas mainly in search of temporary work. Argentina received more than a million and a half of these emigrants while others went to Uruguay, Brazil and Cuba.

In 1994 Spain was the EU country with the lowest migration rate. Hardly did the emigrants reach 0.5% of the entire population. Officially, there were 187.000 foreigners from Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and America. Spain was at the end of the tail of emigration followed only by Finland, which had even less foreign residents. At the other end was Germany with 4.1 million (5% of the population) emigrants, among them 1.8 million Turks and 80000 people from the former Yugoslavia. The Turks constituted the most numerous group of foreigners in the European space, with 2.5 million, followed by Moroccans, with 1.08 million, and former Yugoslavs, with 0.9 million.

During the last decade, the economic instability of almost the totality of the Latin American countries and the ever greater demographic explosion of the Magreb generated great migratory flows in the direction of Spain. From 1999 these flows became massive. In 2000, 60% of the emigrants in Spain were citizen of other countries of the EU (40%) and the Magreb (20%).

The table shows the evolution of the total emigration, regular as much as irregular, in the country by region of origin. It can be observed the increase in the emigration from Latin America and East Europe countries. Furthermore it is noticeable the increase in the emigration of African origin that, in comparison with the one coming from the mentioned regions, is relatively low. The emigration from non-communitarian countries is fundamentally from Romania and Bulgaria. The citizens from these two countries, as we shall indicate further on, enjoy the possibility of travelling without visa in the Schengen space, in their quality as future members of the EU.

Table 1. *Emigrants in Spain (thousands), by region of origin from 1st of January 1999 to 1st of January 2005 (percentage variation (%) of the total emigrants from one year to the next)*

Region	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
European Union	329,5	375,5	417,3	489,8	587,7	636,0	766,7
(%)	18,6	13,9	11,1	17,4	20,0	8,2	20,5
Europe	36,5	47,2	106,1	202,4	335,9	404,6	561,1
(%)	22,7	29,3	124,8	90,7	66,0	20,4	38,8
Asia	47,3	56,5	75,1	98,9	129,0	142,8	186,2
(%)	9,7	19,5	32,9	31,7	30,3	10,8	30,4
Latin America	134,4	184,0	416,1	720,2	1.032,1	1.219,7	1.409,0
(%)	18,1	36,9	126,2	73,1	43,3	18,2	15,5
Africa	174,7	229,0	317,2	423,0	522,7	579,4	705,9
(%)	17,9	31,3	38,6	33,4	23,6	10,8	30,4
Subsaharian Africa	32,3	43,4	60,7	79,8	98,5	109,9	142,8
(%)	9,2	34,3	39,9	31,5	23,5	11,5	29,9
Magreb and Egypt	142,1	185,6	256,6	343,3	424,2	469,5	563,2
(%)	20,1	30,6	38,2	33,8	23,6	10,7	20,0
Total	749,1	923,9	1.370,7	1.977,9	2.664,2	3.034,3	3.691,5
(%)	17,6	23,4	48,4	44,3	34,7	13,9	21,7

Source: *Own elaboration using the data from the National Statistics Institute (INE), 2005.*

The massive entrance of emigrants in Spain takes place as much through the sea borders as through the aerial and terrestrial ones. The arrival of "pateras" (small boats) to the Spanish coasts constitutes, without a doubt, the most dramatic form of entrance of irregular emigrants to the territory of this country. A second way of entering, more important in quantitative terms, is through the qualified border points. Mostly foreigners originating in non-communitarian countries use this way. In this sense it should be emphasized the border with France through the Pyrenees. The Madrilenian airport of Barajas represents the main front door for emigration to Spain. Also, the seaports opened to the international traffic are another front door for emigration. Special mention deserves the border of Ceuta and Melilla with Morocco, where in the period from the end of 2005 to the beginning of 2006 the flows have increased.

During the extraordinary process of legalization of foreign workers residence on the Spanish territory, carried out in 2005, a total of 573,270 foreigners have regularized their administrative situation. From the total of 691,655 requests to obtain residency rights, 83.3% have obtained a favourable resolution. 115,149 requests obtained an unfavourable resolution, that is to say, they are still illegal residents in Spain. By regions, Madrid has the greatest number

of legalizations, with 134,563, followed by Catalonia (117,583) and the Valencia Community (86,306).

At the moment, Spain already surpasses the 44 million inhabitants. Of them, 2.7 million are foreign legal in Spain (6.2% of the total of the population). Of these, 28.5% are comprised of communitarian space residents. The last statistics available at the national level show the fact that, at the beginning of 2007, 653,050 foreigners emigrated towards Spain, mainly from the EU (20,79%), non-communitarian European countries (12,3%), African countries (23,71%), Latin American countries (36,02%) and Asian countries (6,48%). (*Figure, 1*).

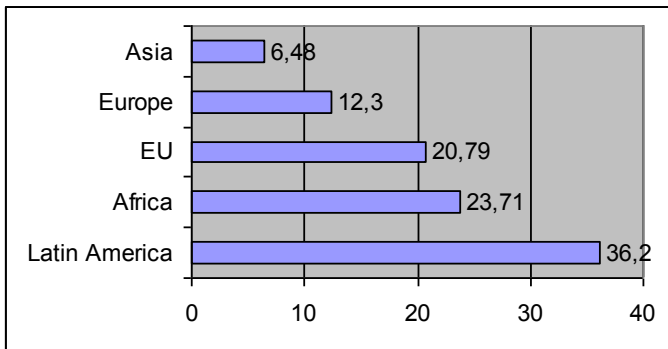


Figure n°.1 *Emigrations by region of origin % (2007)*

Source: Own elaboration using data from INE, 2007.

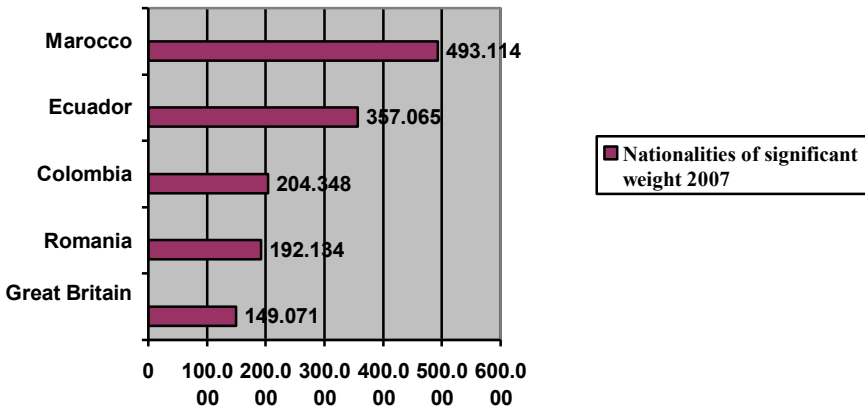


Figure n°. 2. *Nationalities of significant weight in Spain. (2007)*

Source: Own elaboration using Eurostat data (2006)

Looking at the migratory currents by region in Spain we can see the same characteristics that we can find in any other country, that is to say, regions of greater circulation of capital, merchandise and people, who become zones that are rapidly changing given the presence of significant number of emigrants.

By county, the majority is from Morocco, 493,114 documented emigrants, followed by Ecuador, 357,065 people, Colombia, with 204,348 people and Romania, 192,134 people, surpassed the UK (149.071). (Graphic n^o2) In addition, it is to be emphasized the presence of Chinese, Italian, Peruvian and Argentine citizens. By independent communities, 60% of the foreign population concentrates in the Mediterranean communities and islands, especially in Catalonia (148.939) and the Valencia Community, (98,365). However, the greater concentration of foreigners takes place in the Community of Madrid. At 1st of January 2006, according to the Municipal Register of Inhabitants, in the city of Madrid only lived 536,824 foreign citizens. According to the Advisor of Emigration the entrance of emigrants in the Community of Madrid is growing a rate of 20-22% per year. In the Cantabrian cornice only live 6% of the foreigners, in the river basin of the Ebro (Navarra, Rioja and Aragón) 5% and in the rest of the interior (the two Castillas and Extremadura) other 6%. Finally, in the independent cities of Ceuta and Melilla the percentage of the total foreign population does not reach 1%.

By type of residence, 39.26% of the foreigners have initial residence; 15.19% already asked for the first renovation, 21.19% the second renovation, whereas 22.05% have permanent work permits.

In 2005, Spain was, by far, the country that more emigrants received of the entire European Union. The European Office of Statistics (Eurostat) estimates that a total of 652,300 emigrants arrived the last year in Spain, a figure far superior to Italy's, the second receiver. The arrival of foreigners was, in addition, responsible to a great part of the increase of the population, the third most important of the 25 member countries.

The official forecasts on the evolution of emigration in Spain can be found in the projections elaborated recently by the INE (National Institute of Statistics, 2006) on the projection of the Spanish population until year 2050. It is indicated that the foreseeable number for the next forty years will reach about 250 thousand a year. According to this forecast, Spain will receive then, 14 million new emigrants, with which, in 2059, a third of the Spanish population will be foreign, in comparison with the present 10%. In the circumstance that this forecast would be fulfilled, Spain becomes the country with the greatest foreign population of all Europe as much in absolute terms, as in relative terms.

3.2. Bilateral agreements between Spain and the home countries

An important characteristic of emigration to Spain is its nature, to a large extent illegal. 98% of the foreigners who have arrived in Spain in the last years have done it illegally or have incurred the illegality once exceeded the term for which they were authorized to remain in Spain. On the contrary, the legal emigrants, that is to say, those that have arrived in Spain with the required residence and work permits have been practically irrelevant, between 20 and 30 thousand people fixed per series. (Ortiz, 2006)

Being a recent country of emigration, in Spain most of the instruments needed to manage the emigration phenomenon are relatively new. It was in 2000, when the Spanish Government created and reorganized simultaneously most of the administrative structures that are the expressions of the emigration policy, introducing significant changes in the legislation of migration. (Terron, 2004)

Starting in the 90s and afterwards, the Spanish government considers reaching agreements on the flow of people, the readmission or the regulation of migratory flows. Most of the agreements concern the management of the migratory labour flows and the control of irregular emigration through the establishment of readmission agreements.

The objective of the readmission agreements is to establish the mechanisms to guarantee that the emigrants in irregular situation, who are going to be the object of readmission, are indeed readmitted in their country of origin or, in the case of stateless or national of third countries, in the country of transit through which they accessed the Spanish territory.

The readmission agreements have allowed the Spanish Government to repatriate between 2001 and 2005 more than 400,000 people, most of them of Moroccan or Romanian nationality. These two nationalities are the most numerous within the irregular flows of emigration that enter Spanish territory through the marine routes of the Straits of Gibraltar or the Canary Islands (in the Moroccan case) or the terrestrial route through the border of Jonquera (in the Romanian case), but not within the irregular flows that enter the main access road to migration in Spain, that is the airport of Madrid - Barajas. In this sense, it is interesting to point out that the most significant differences between the number of residency permits and the number of unregistered persons is to be found in the case of the citizens of Latin American countries, countries with which Spain has signed readmission conventions.

On the other hand, Spain has also subscribed bilateral agreements regarding the regulation of migratory flows with several countries. In these agreements the migratory flows of labour are regulated, establishing as much the mechanisms for the communication of demand for labour as the assessment of

the qualities of the labour supply. In addition, the agreements guarantee the labour and social rights of the foreign workers in Spain, and specifically regulate the case of the seasonal workers.

The importance of these agreements resides in the fact that they establish preferential treatment, for the countries with which Spain has signed agreements on flow regulation, in what the supply of seasonal labour is concerned. The fact that between 2002 and 2003 Spain has signed agreements with Poland, Bulgaria and Romania, could perhaps point out a slight preference for the foreign workers of European origin, to the detriment of other groups of non-European nationality (Marcu, 2005). Additionally, all these agreements include a section to regulate and facilitate the voluntary return of the nationals who have come to work to Spain. The exception to this is the agreement signed with Morocco, which does not state any facilitation of the voluntary return. Indeed Morocco continues being a country of high-priority attention in the scope of the Spanish policy on emigration (López García, 1992). During 2003, the Moroccan Government has agreed to readmit those irregular emigrants - Moroccan as much sub-Saharan - in case that it can be proved that they have entered Spanish territory through Morocco. Furthermore, Spain has signed some other agreements with this country, like the one concerning the seasonal workers (September 1999) and the memorandum on minors sealed in 2003.

In 2003, another project of voluntary return has been carried out, this time with the objective of facilitating the return to their country of the emigrants who have not been able to incorporate in the Spanish labour market and that do not have the resources to return to their countries of origin on their own.

As we pointed out, the greatest process of regularization of the migratory flows in Spain has been carried out throughout the year of 2005, process by means of which 573,270 emigrants acquired a legal status on the Spanish territory.

4. The effects of emigration. Integration as challenge for the 21st century.

Just like the causes, the effects of emigration constitute a complex set. Within this complex set we should point out the presence of social, cultural, demographic, and, of course, economic impacts. Although it is too soon to evaluate the effects of emigration on Spain, it is possible to gather them in three great slopes: the demographic one, the social protection and the labour ones.

On the demographic slope, the main effect of emigration is a contribution to a greater increase than the hoped one in the total Spanish population. Also it has generated a certain equilibrium in the pyramid of the Spanish population, widening the younger, masculine and feminine age

segments, mainly from 20 to 34 years of age, where foreigners represent more than 10% of the total. The last data on birth rate, also, makes it clear that emigration plays a decisive role in its rise. Given that the weight of the foreign population in total population is appreciable it already influences significantly the first stages of the educative system (Arango, 2003).

The effect on the social protection system of the presence of an important volume of affiliated immigrant population for now is a rise in social security contributions.

On the labour market the immediate effect of emigration has been the cover of the labour demand. The effect on the wages is, however, difficult to measure, because statistics leave outside their reach two economic activities (agriculture and domestic) of great importance in the total activities covered by the emigrants. It is worthwhile mentioning separately the effects of immigrant labour on the underground economy, since; in spite of the recent regularization, there is still a great number of emigrants in irregular administrative situation.

There is a need for integral policies, sustained by continuity and effectiveness, policies that have the support of society, bearing in mind the diverse changes tied to emigration. A favourable policy must have three pillars: in the first place, an intelligent and flexible management of the borders, based on rationalization and mobility; in the second place, a policy of integration on the basis of a policy of integral citizenship and, in the third place, a support for the origin countries. (Nair, 2006)

In order to obtain full integration, it is necessary to facilitate the emigrants acquire citizenship status so that they can integrate in the Spanish society since the carried out regularization from 2005 raised questions related to religion, education, housing shortage and medical services. In order to see the results of this abundance that the arrival of foreigners represents to Spain, it will be necessary to wait for a second generation.

The new Spaniards already add up 4 million new inhabitants, and the basis for the integration of these people is the quantity of citizenship rights. However, the social distrust and the tensions do not facilitate the integration, essential for the coexistence of so many people that leave no Straits of Gibraltar, fence of Melilla, airport or scorn stand in their way to the dream land. As we indicated, the emigrants contribute to counter the diminishing in the birth rate and boost with their contributions the social security accounts. During the last eight years, the foreigners already have had in Spain 225,000 children. Thanks to them and their parents, the Spanish population is made of 43, 2 million inhabitants. With the arrival of half a million foreign children in the passed school term, the Spanish schools did not lose students for the first time in 15

years. If the receiving society is permeable, flexible, intelligent, it will open the doors to the emigrants. If not, they will create their own world on the side. Ever since 1999 and till 2005, 60,000 foreigners asked for the Spanish nationality. Moroccans represent the greatest part. They also travelled to France, Belgium, Holland or Italy (Fibla, 2005). To them we can add the ones that had to cross the Atlantic. And the European continent kept on increasing its population in the South, like in cascade, richer and richer in colours and shades. They arrived from all cardinal points, as we saw, and at this point, most of them decided not to cross the Pyrenees anymore and focused in the opportunities that Spain can offer them to improve their life. They are the first interested in integrating, although they need time to let go the uncertainties involved in the change, the armour that served them not succumb to the dangers of the exodus and at the same time to recognize themselves in their neighbours, admire what they find, give what they bring.

In the dawn of the 21st century, from its privileged geopolitical situation, offering high levels of well-being, and an ample array of economic and social opportunities, we trust that Spain take advantage of the diversity and cultural wealth that emigrants contribute with. This is the key and the challenge of a true coexistence and integration.

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