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Vice President Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría
Ministry of the Presidency
Complejo de la Moncloa. 28071 MADRID
Avenida Puerta de Hierro, 0
28001 - Madrid, Spain

Minister Luis de Guindos
Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism
Paseo de la Castellana, 160
28046 - Madrid, Spain

Dear Honorable Ministers Sáenz de Santamaría, and De Guindos:

We, the undersigned organisations, want to congratulate you on the hosting of the Fourth International Open Data Conference. Such meetings provide a key opportunity to unite a global network of different actors – from government, business, academia, media and civil society – pursuing increased openness and transparency of the public and private sectors. We call on you to continue the goodwill from the conference to strengthen openness in Spain, both in terms of data and public information. We recognise the advances that Spain has made on its transparency agenda but also note that there are some key areas where critical advances are needed:

- **A genuine right of access to information:** As a fundamental right in international human rights law, Spain must ensure that there are no barriers to accessing public information. To achieve this, Spain must urgently improve the [transparency law](#), in particular it must: remove the need for an electronic ID certificate and allow requests by email; remove the limitation on requesting “internal” or “auxiliary” documents (Article 18); and endow the [Transparency Council](#) with the powers of inspection and sanction.
- **Full implementation of open data across government:** Spain should join the over 30 national and local governments, including France, Italy and the UK, who have [adopted](#) the [International Open Data Charter](#), which sets common and clear principles and a high bar for open data. It should also implement the [Open Contracting Data Standard](#) (like France, the UK and Italy) to provide open, accessible, joined-up data on government contracts with private companies.
- **A truly open public corporate register and an open and public register of the beneficial owners of companies:** The European Commission has proposed steps to give the public access to information on who ultimately controls and benefits from secret companies. Spain can advance these aims by ensuring its corporate register, “[registro mercantil](#)”, is freely available online as open data: free of charge to access, complete, downloadable in bulk, and open licensed by default.

- **Transparency and civil society engagement in the Open Government Partnership:** Spain must establish a permanent mechanism for civil society dialogue and inputs, as per the OGP commitment, and produce a national action plan based on OGP values. The Spanish government's [court case](#) against the Transparency Council should be dropped and all OGP-related documents made fully transparent.

We look forward to supporting the Spanish government in these efforts and kindly request a follow up meeting with our Spanish civil society colleagues to discuss next steps.

Kind regards,



Access Info
Helen Darbishire



Fundación Civio (Spain)
David Cabo

Also signed by:

Accountability Lab
Africa Freedom of Information Centre
Association for Promotion Sustainable Development (Hisar, India)
CAFSO-WRAG for Development
Campaign2015+ International
CIVICUS Affinity Group of National Associations
CivicOS.net
Forum for Development
Global Peace and Development Organisation (Liberia)
Global Witness
mySociety
NGO Federation of Nepal
Open Contracting Partnership
OpenCorporates
Publish What You Fund
Southwest Freedom of Information Act Network Nigeria
Sunlight Foundation
Transparency International
Universal Rights Network
Web Foundation