



Archiveros Españoles en la Función Pública

## Archiveros Españoles en la Función Pública (AEFP)

### Aims.

The main goal of our Association is to promote the professional training of its members and the development of the archival services under their responsibility, and to foster the role of public archives as guarantors of administrative transparency as well as tools for the defence of citizens' rights. It has non-profit making purposes and it will dedicate all possible incomes that it could obtain to develop its own activities.

### Information about membership.

*Archiveros Españoles en la Función Pública (AEFP) –Spanish Archivists working for Public Bodies—* is a professional association designed for gathering archivists working as civil servants or as contracted personnel of the different Archives or Records Services within governmental agencies or public bodies in Spain, and who share and assume the principles and aims declared in its constitution.

If you want to become a member of our association, ask in our desk at the congress exhibition, enter our web site (<http://www.aefp.org.es>) or send us an email ([aefp@aefp.org.es](mailto:aefp@aefp.org.es)).

### Organization.

*Archiveros Españoles en la Función Pública (AEFP)* is organized in the following internal offices:

- The Honorary Presidency.
- The Executive Committee, formed by: a **Presidency**, a **Vice-presidency & Office of Treasurer**, a **Secretariat** and **2 Committee members**.
- General Assembly.
- Certification Technique Committee, formed by a **chairman** and **4 Committee members**.
- Working groups.

### Developed activities.

- Elaboration and approval of the *Manifiesto en Defensa de los Archivos Públicos – Statement in Defence of Public Archives—*.
- Implementation of the Plataforma en Defensa de los Archivos Públicos –Platform for the Defence of Public Archives— (<http://plataforma.aefp.org.es>).
- Elaboration and approval, inside the Plataforma en Defensa de los Archivos Públicos of an statement in favour of the *archival infrastructures project of the Ministry of Defence of Spain inside Infante don Juan Headquarters (Paseo de Moret – Madrid)—*.
- Organization of the Debate Conference *Privacy or Impunity on the regulation of access to archives keeping repression witness, in the framework of the projected Bill about “Historic Memory”*, celebrated 7th march 2007.
- Participation in national and international professional events.
- Development of training courses.



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- Development of any initiative in defence of public archives and their specialized technical staff (e.g. the letter to the Personnel Committee of the Ministry of Culture, requests for a meeting with the First Vice-president of Spanish Government and Minister of the Presidency, etc.).
- Support to the *Motion no. 162/000587 on the preservation and defence of public archives* sent for debate to the Spanish Parliament by the Political Group Izquierda Unida – Iniciativa per Catalunya Verds, based on our *Statement in Defence of Public Archives*.

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### Statement in Defence of Public Archives

*Adaptation approved by the Ordinary General Assembly of Archiveros Españoles en la Función Pública (AEFP), 24th may 2007.*

Public archives are essential elements in a Democratic Society as guarantors of rights and obligations, as the indispensable corner stone of accountability and as irreplaceable nominal sources of collective memory. We understand them not only as repositories to keep those old documents with a recognized nominal value, used mainly as sources for historic researches, but also as the administrative services in charge of managing public documents from their generation until their elimination or selection for a permanent keeping.

These documentary guarantees can only take place if it is assured a correct preservation of public documents and it is regulated, in a precise and clear way, the appraisal of documents in order to make possible the elimination of those files which have lost any kind of validity, not only from the point of view of the obligations and rights derived from administrative acts, but also from the point of view of the monitoring and accountability of public bodies actions.

The possibility of proving with documents the individual rights derived from administrative acts is closely linked to a good administration of archives as public services and with their accessibility, as much from a legal point of view as from the arrangement and description of their documents. On the other hand, privacy will be safeguarded if archives and records are managed and administrated by archivists working with independency and using their professional skills. This is more visible in the case of Electronic Government: citizens, faced with information resources reduced to a cryptic environment, may feel themselves more and more disarmed when they need to provide a documentary prove in any business. Public authorities must guarantee that the huge advantages of Electronic Government, in terms of a bigger efficiency, agility and transparency of their acts, do not lessen, in any case, democratic achievements consolidated in last years regarding preservation and availability of public documents and, accordingly, their use by citizens as fundamental tools for the exercise of their rights.

Public archives are, finally, essential elements to make effective rights and duties of public authorities and citizens, and they are also another piece of the Welfare State. Public archives are much more than a place to research on the past only opened to a reduced number of learned people. The support for their promotion, modernization and development must come from citizens' conviction that archives and archivists are services of the community.



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We, convinced of these principles and after analyzing the lacks of the Spanish society on the subject of documentary warrants, demand from public authorities the adoption of the following measures:

- 1.- Elaboration of an Archives Act that includes the creation of an Archives Council which coordinates in an effective way all the archives of the different Civil Services regardless their ranks; that regulates the Spanish Archives System, as a whole of all the archives depending of the public bodies and authorities and, within it, the State Civil Service Archives System; that provides for the creation of a National Archives Agency which gathers both the national civil and military service archives in a unique network; and that reorganizes the Archives High Committee (*Junta Superior de Archivos*) to transform it into an authentic advisory organism of the Spanish public archives systems.
- 2.- Elaboration of a Freedom of Information Act that reconciles the dispersed and sometimes contradictory existing legislation on documentary access and guarantees the right of access to the records of public bodies through quick resolution and transaction administrative proceedings and appeals.
- 3.- Attachment of public archives to the Government Departments that have the competence of organizing Civil Service units, going finally beyond their exclusive cultural ambit.
- 4.- Elaboration of Archives Infrastructure Plans that could relieve the saturated infrastructures and avoid the necessity of contracting private services for records custody and safekeeping. In this way, we consider as an urgent task the taking back of the Administrative Documentation Storage Centre ("Centro de Almacenamiento de Documentación Administrativa [CADA]" Project towards its integration in the State Civil Service Archives System.
- 5.- Increasing of staffs and budgets of records and archives services, and the enlargement of public archives opening time, prolonging their time table from Mondays to Saturdays in morning and afternoon opening hours.
- 6.- Interdepartmental attachment of civil servant corps specialized in archives and homologation of the selection criteria used for the recruitment of archivists in the different Civil Services. Recognition of the independency of archivists in their technical and scientific work and definition of the Civil Service corps of archivists' administrative career.
- 7.- Development of a university course for professional training in records and archives management and organization.
- 8.- Implementation of a true policy for dealing with our immediate past, fostering the value of the documents kept in archives as indispensable primary sources to know the truth.
- 9.- Elaboration of a Military Judiciary Archives Regulation, or the revision of the 1998 Military Archives Regulation, so that the first ones can be included in the legal framework of the 1998 Regulation.
- 10.- Generation of an instrument to collect information of the private documentary heritage with an exceptional relevancy, in order to protect it, and creation of the necessary infrastructures for the management of the private documentary fonds that could be incorporated to the State archives.