

# Spain



### PLG Member Firm

Pintó Ruiz & Del Valle



In response to the growing need to provide a comprehensive service to our clients, Pintó Ruiz & Del Valle was established as a firm of lawyers and economists at the end of 1999 following the merger of two of the oldest and most prominent law firms in Barcelona and Madrid, “Bufete Pintó Ruiz” and “Del Valle Abogados” (founded in 1903 and 1910 respectively), specializing and renowned in different branches of law.

At present, the firm has more than sixty lawyers between its offices in Madrid, Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca and Alicante.

Pintó Ruiz & Del Valle provides advisory services on a national and international level in Civil, Commercial, Arbitration, Bankruptcy, Tax, Employment, Procedural, Criminal, Sports and Intellectual Property Law, fields in which the founding firms have considerable experience and prestige.

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## Country Facts

### Legal Facts:

**Constitution:** The Constitution of 1978 established a Parliamentary Monarchy which is a democracy. The Parliament is comprised of two Chambers, Congress and Senate, even though the first one prevails in the legislative procedures. The President of Government is elected amongst the members of the Congress, holding General Elections every four years. All the Ordinary Laws are subjected to a potential Constitutional Review.

**Legal system:** Continental Law System based on the primacy of written Law as enacted by the Central Parliament and the different Regional Legislative Chambers.

### Geographical Facts:

**Area:** total: 505,811 km<sup>2</sup>

**Natural resources:** Coal, Iron, Zinc, Lead, Gypsum

### Demographic Facts:

**Population:** 46,661,950 (Official Data, January 2009).

**Languages:** Spanish, Catalan, Basque, Galician.

**Government:** Constitutional Democratic Monarchy.

**Administrative divisions:** 17 Autonomous Communities ("Comunidades Autónomas") with wide legislative prerogatives (Andalucía, Aragón, Asturias, Cantabria, Cataluña, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla-León, Extremadura, Galicia, Islas Baleares, Islas Canarias, La Rioja, Madrid, Murcia, Navarra, País Vasco, Valencia) and 2 Autonomous Cities in the North of Africa (Ceuta and Melilla).

### Economical Facts:

**GDP:** \$ 1.602 trillion (2008 est.).

**Unemployment rate:** 17% (December 2009).

**Exports:** \$ 285,9 billion (2008 est.).

**Exports partners:** France (18,4%), Germany (10,6%), Portugal (8,7%), Italy (8%), UK (6,7%), USA (4,2%) (2008)

**Imports:** \$ 415,5 billion (2008 est.)

**Imports partners:** EU (Germany, France, Italy, UK, Netherlands), USA, China, Japan.

### Taxation:

The main taxes in Spain are the Personal Income Tax (applied to the individuals) and Corporate Tax (not only applied to companies, but also to other entities such as Investment Funds, Joint Ventures, Venture Capital Funds, Pension Funds, etc...).

Since the Act 41/1998 on Income Tax for Non Residents Income all the rules that apply to non-residents (individuals and legal entities). It establishes two different taxation systems, depending on the income being earned through a permanent establishment or not. Nowadays, the Non Tax Residents Law has been refunded by the Royal Decree Law 5/2004.

Other important taxes are the Inheritance and Gift Tax, Value Added Tax-VAT and Transfer Tax.

### Links of interest:

[www.mae.es](http://www.mae.es)

[www.minhac.es](http://www.minhac.es)

[www.mju.es](http://www.mju.es)

[www.ine.es](http://www.ine.es)