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King Felipe Wants Spain to Put Young Generation to Work

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By Angeline Benoit Jun 20, 2014 2:32 PM GMT+0200

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For the man who just became **Spain's** [\(http://topics.bloomberg.com/spain/\)](http://topics.bloomberg.com/spain/)'s **newest employer**, work for the young is now a priority.



King Felipe, sworn in yesterday after waiting until the age of 46 to get his current position, told lawmakers that the country must redouble its efforts to find jobs for the young. With Spain plagued by the second-highest unemployment rate of the European Union, that theme builds on unfinished business from the reign of his father, Juan Carlos.

(/photo) **King Felipe VI**

Photo

King Felipe VI appears

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"We have to send a message of hope, particularly to the youngest," the new head of state said yesterday in Madrid. "Solving their problems, and especially finding work is a priority for society and for the state."

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The former king said he wanted to abdicate to let a young Spain's six-year slump. That may prove a challenge for the proclaimed him monarch also **plan to scrap** a youth council created with Juan Carlos's **blessing** was five years old, a victim of cost cuts enacted by the **Rajoy** [\(http://topics.bloomberg.com/mariano-rajoy/\)](http://topics.bloomberg.com/mariano-rajoy/)

"There is no real effort to tackle the problem," said Carlos Alcaraz, a 27-year-old native of Alicante in the southeast of Spain, where the youth jobless rate is 45 percent. He is retraining to be a teacher after struggling to find work as an architect.

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Jobless Rate

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As Felipe settles down at his new desk, the unemployment rate for people under 30 years old in Spain reaches 43 percent compared with a 25 percent general rate as the younger generation, raised during an era of prosperity after Spain joined the European Union, aren't benefiting from the same labor market conditions as their elders. About half of those who do work have a temporary contract, that is twice the average rate for the working population, a situation that keeps 75 percent **living with their parents**

(<http://www.cje.org/es/publicaciones/novedades/observatorio-de-empleo-2014-06-19-2Froyal-jobholder-wants-spain-to-get-to-work-for-young-generation.html>), data published by the youth council show

"There is no sign of the renovation the King has called for," said **Luis Ortiz Gervasi** (<http://www.upf.edu/dcpis/en/pdi/professoratf/log.html>), a sociologist at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. "On the contrary, the government has scuttling bodies such as the youth council or the women's institute which are precisely pointing at the main social inequalities which are getting worse."

Rajoy, who started his political career two years before the youth council was created in 1983, is slashing it as part of the deepest austerity measures in Spanish democratic history. It'll be replaced by a less costly structure that'll be democratic and independent, said a Health Ministry spokesman who asked not to be named in line with government policy.

Youth Empowerment

"There is no real political will to empower Spanish youth with democratic tools," said Alejandro Quiroga, a political scientist at Newcastle University in the U.K. and Alcala de Henares University near **Madrid** (<http://topics.bloomberg.com/madrid/>). "The youth council isn't so much an expense as a critical voice being silenced at a time when the main plan for young Spaniards is that they go abroad to work, as happened under the dictator Franco's regime, rather than invest in areas that would generate jobs for them."

Hector Saz Rodriguez, 30, the youth council's president, expects the new structure to drop campaigns such as lobbying the government to replicate successful initiatives in northern **Europe** (<http://topics.bloomberg.com/europe/>) as it implements a European youth employment program, rather than extending prevailing inefficient methods.

In an **address** (http://www.casareal.es/ES/ArchivoMultimedia/Paginas/archivo-multimedia_archivos-videos-detalle.aspx?data=642) to the nation on June 2 to explain his decision to abdicate, Juan Carlos, 76, said that "a new generation is rightly demanding to play the main role" in forging the future, as his generation had done in "another crucial moment" of history.

Hidden Reasons



Photographer: Paco Campos/AFP via Getty Images

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Asiana Crash in San Francisco Blamed on

Juan Carlos chaperoned Spain's democratic transition in the late 1970s after succeeding the dictator **Francisco Franco** (<http://topics.bloomberg.com/francisco-franco/>), who enabled the second restoration of Spanish monarchy four decades after overturning the country's Republican regime. (http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-06-24/fatal-asiana-crash-in-san-francisco-blamed-on-confused-pilots#r=rss)

"Generational change is a sensible argument to hide the many reasons for which Juan Carlos has lost his people's support," said **Javier Del Rey Morato**

(<http://www.ucm.es/periodismo1/del-rey-morato,-ja> professor at Madrid's Complutense University. His pre: corruption allegations against his daughter Princess C hunting trip that emerged at the peak of the crisis riling he said.

Juan Carlos's abdication has boosted support for the r **Dos poll** (<http://www.elmundo.es/espana/2014/06/0> published on June 9 by El Mundo newspaper. The sun questioned believe Felipe will be a good king for the cc

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'Extreme Poverty'


Meanwhile, economists forecast the country's **unemployment rate** (<http://topics.bloomberg.com/unemployment-rate/>) will remain little changed by 2016, at 24.2 percent, according to a Bloomberg News survey published this week. Even so, Bank of Spain Deputy Governor Fernando Restoy said today that he sees positive signs in Spain's labor market.


"The job situation in Spain is difficult and it's nothing new," said **Jose Garcia-Montalvo** (<http://www.econ.upf.edu/~montalvo/>), an economy professor at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. "It won't improve without a structural and substantial change."


In Alicante, Alcaraz says young people can only count on loved ones. He makes about 600 euros (\$818) a month from giving private lessons, teaching languages learned during his studies in **Germany** (<http://topics.bloomberg.com/germany/>) and the U.S., and will supervise a holiday camp to keep up his income during the summer. "If it weren't for our families' support, we'd be faced with extreme poverty with the kind of wages we're earning." Advertisements

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Bill Karns · 4 days ago

Look to Venezuela present-day...that is Spain in the near-future unless it comes to terms with its collective life-style and the unrealistic dreams that its grand, imperial history somehow matters in the technology and trade of the modern world. As I look at Spain today, I don't see any Spanish edition of an 'Iron Lady' rising from the ranks and bending the economic course of the country away from populist Socialism.

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Guest · 5 days ago

Genealogy of king Felipe <http://goo.gl/V7CT0u>

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ramu · 5 days ago

Really, how will he do that? There is no more new america discover and kill all it;s natives and loot their gold. Spaniards can't work like toiling asians with low living standards or even like germans. So whats left? Let me guess, one youth digs a hole and another fills it. There, now everybody is employed and Draghi prints some euros and gives to both. Solved!

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sconehead · 5 days ago

Immigrants are keeping Europe afloat economically, doing jobs few people want at wages natives will not accept. Europe will need hundreds of millions more "refugees" over the next few decades if they want to grow and not shrink!

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Bad Mutha  **sconehead** · 5 days ago

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