



Mr. Ignacio Mezquita  
Director General for Economic Policy  
Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness  
Paseo de la Castellana, 162 - 22nd floor, office 2203  
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Paris, 21 January 2013

Dear Mr Director General,

The International Union of Architects (UIA) is an international professional organisation which emphasizes the public benefit dimension of architectural services and which considers environmental and local values, human rights, social and cultural dimensions for the proper professional practice of architects. The UIA is composed of member sections representing more than 1 400 000 architects from 133 countries and territories.

Spain is acknowledged worldwide for its architecture and many Spanish architects are very well renowned. Today, Spain attracts so many tourists because of its built environment. Architecture is the core of the built heritage. Architects are trained with special skills and no other profession can deal with space.

The World Trade Organisation has acknowledged that architectural services deserve special treatment in international trade, because they deal with relevant topics such as:

- Fair behaviour with the clients, as a regulated profession architects have a code of ethics
- Cultural identity of the inhabitants
- Health and security of the inhabitants
- The goals that the international organisations have set up to face climate change issues
- The necessary leadership to allow small firms (contractors) to build all projects and to survive as economic actors.

The existing Spanish law, "Ley de ordenación de la edificación", offers all the guarantees to ensure that architects have the professional skills for the design and the work management of buildings.

In order to promote the quality in architecture and the future of the built heritage in Spain, the International Union of Architects strongly expresses its disapproval of any measure that ignores or tries to decrease the importance of the training and the responsibilities of the architects in the building sector. Furthermore, the current crisis will not be solved with the same tools which led to the crisis.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Dubler', enclosed within a simple oval outline.

Albert Dubler  
UIA President

C/c: Jordi Ludevid, CSCAE President

Albert Dubler, UIA President

Michel Barmaki, UIA Secretary general

Antonio Rivero, UIA Vice – President Region I,

Catherine Hayward, UIA Communication Officer

Nicolas Jelansky, UIA Director Administration

**General Secretariat**

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