

Verges

Puig de Santa Caterina  
309m

MONTGRÍ

el Ter

Torroella de Montgrí

el Daró

B a l a x E m p o r d à

issec

la Bisbal d'Empordà

el Daró

MUNTANYES  
DE  
BEGUR

Puig de Son Ric  
325m

Palafrugell

RIBERES

Puig Caragol  
359m

Calonge de Mar



THE POSITIVE EFFECTS OF CATALAN HOME-RULE ARE EASY TO SEE WHEN WE LOOK AT THE INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN IN TERRITORIAL PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. HUMAN ACTIVITY HAS BEEN SHAPING OUR TERRITORY FOR A LONG TIME, AND THIS IS AN IMPORTANT CONDITIONING FACTOR TODAY. THE *GENERALITAT*, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, HAS GRADUALLY ESTABLISHED THE CRITERIA AND THE APPROACHES WHICH ARE DISCUSSED IN THIS DOSSIER. WE HAVE CHOSEN CERTAIN ASPECTS WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT EITHER FOR THEIR INNOVATORY NATURE OR AS EXAMPLES OF THE PRIORITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED. WE WOULD LIKE TO MENTION THE INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE OF THE "DEPARTAMENT DE POLÍTICA TERRITORIAL I OBRES PÚBLIQUES" IN PREPARING THIS DOSSIER AND TO THANK SR. JOAN GARCIA BAUSA, EDITORIAL DIRECTOR OF THE MAGAZINE "ESPAIS", WHO HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FINAL TEXT.



# THE TERRITORIAL STRUCTURE OF CATALONIA. GOVERNMENT PLANNING POLICY IN THE COUNTRY'S EQUILIBRIUM

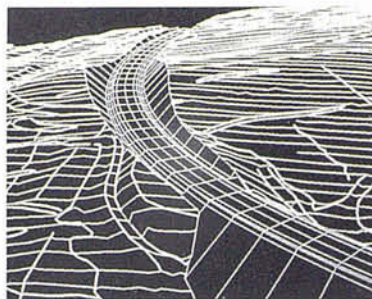


SATELLITE MAP OF CATALONIA 1:250,000.

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THE CATALAN GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR VERY MANY ASPECTS OF TERRITORIAL PLANNING, AS LAID DOWN IN THE CATALAN STATUTE OF AUTONOMY, THE TERRITORIAL POLICY LAW, AND THE SPECIFIC LEGISLATION ON HEALTH, ROADS, TRANSPORT, OPEN SPACES, TOWN PLANNING AND THE COUNTRYSIDE.





COMPUTER ASSISTED DESIGN.

One of the departments through which the government of the *Generalitat de Catalunya* carries out its work is that of "Política Territorial i Obres Públiques" (Territorial Policy and Public Works). In other words, one of the things the government is responsible for involves defining and putting into practice the policies that the Executive Council wants to develop as regards land, the territory. To do so, it needs a "Pla Territorial General", which is being prepared in accordance with the "Llei de Política Territorial". Starting from the already existing network of infrastructures and those foreseen in the "Plans Sectorials" (as, for example, the Roads Plan), plans are drawn up for a national communications network which respects the great beauty of the natural environment and the landscape, while at the same time allowing the existence of an industrialized society in search of higher living standards.

The guidelines of the "Pla Territorial de Catalunya" were passed by the Catalan Government in 1980. The 1983 "Llei de Política Territorial" establishes specific aims and sets out the Regional Development Programme. Priority will be given to the more depressed parts of the country –the mountain regions–, which have their own five-year Public Investment Plans, and following the approval of the "Lleis d'Ordenació Territorial", policies are needed for the regulation of development in the "Regió I", or Barcelona area, through the "Pla Territorial Parcial".

The final result of this sector-by-sector planning, the Pla Territorial General de Catalunya, is about to be officially presented by the Government of the *Generalitat*, bound in a single document.

### A 32,000 km<sup>2</sup> Triangle

Catalonia is a triangle formed by the Pyrenees, the Mediterranean and the country's western axis; 32,000 km<sup>2</sup> which make up 940 municipal areas and 41 *comarques*, or regions. Its structural organization consists of a capital, Barcelona, whose metropolitan area contains half the country's population, with a series of cities relating harmoniously with one another and with the capital; a coastline which is continuously built-up for long stretches; other, secondary centres of activity, situated between 100 and 120 km from Barcelona and in need of promotion; agricultural reserves in the rural areas and a series of woodland and mountain areas which should be preserved for environmental reasons. In short, a country of six million inhabitants in a territory which in fact operates as a single urban system.

This organizational structure needs to be polished and perfected, so that it can function smoothly and adapt to progress in services and infrastructures, to its possible and necessary growth: so that it can continue to respond to the developments in population, finance and culture which will arise from the European community's process of consolidation.

On the basis of this already existing and well-consolidated organization, the aims of the territorial planning now under way respond to certain essential factors: predictions for growth, wealth creation, improvements in communications, increased mobility in production, conservation, rational use of natural resources, stability of the population in the Barcelona area and the creation of new development areas, communications between the inland and coastal areas, trans-Pyrenean communications

and the strengthening of links with the rest of Spain.

### Pre-existence

The history of Catalonia goes back a long way and the country has been much transformed by the actions of mankind. No new steps can seriously be considered without bearing in mind these pre-existing conditioning factors. The distribution of cities and towns makes new settlements impossible, though it does allow the enlargement, organization and systematization of the existing population centres. The road network can be completed and brought up to date and the present radial arrangement can be turned into an orthogonal system, on the basis, of course, of the existing roads. The port system can be perfected and better connected with the rest of the country. Where action **will** need to be taken is in communications installations such as Barcelona airport, goods depots, railway stations, railway networks and the connection with the international gauge European network, and in the search for new forms of public transport.

We must also prepare a programme for the extension of water and electricity supplies, gas pipelines and telecommunications networks to all towns and villages, according to their needs and their predictions for growth.

At the same time, a planning policy is being methodically carried out town by town, putting forward suggestions for growth and development areas that take into consideration the existing situation. In this respect, the "Institut Català del Sol" is playing a key part in territorial reorganization in Catalonia, and in the replanning and structuring of





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AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE CITY OF BARCELONA 1:22,000.

many towns. These policies are complemented by interventions in old towns and areas of historical interest through the 'Servei de Patrimoni' of the Directorate General of Architecture and Housing.

#### *Settling Priorities*

In short, Catalonia is made up of a fairly well balanced urban network, but it is also true that it suffers from a territorial imbalance, though this is beginning to

decrease as a result of expansion in the urban subsystems. The *Generalitat's* policies in public works and territorial planning are designed to anticipate the country's future requirements with such steps as the modernization of the infrastructure and communications network and the creation of a structural fabric for the territory, allowing the necessary corrections to be made to improve the living standards and the well-being of the country's inhabitants.

Within these general outlines, the "Pla Territorial" provides the framework for a combined effort, the chance to establish our priorities, the choice of means and the solution of conflicts over the use of the territory. The basic policy of the "Pla Territorial" sees the country's diversity and unity as its starting point and objective, as an inheritance which is worth fostering and preserving. ●