

The Spanish Tax Administration was aware of the need of a new approach in the fight against tax fraud. This approach created planning instruments at three levels. There is a strategical planning with three long term Plans to prevent fraud and to detect fraudsters at an early stage. The last of these long term Plans was published in 2010. The Tax Administration had also General Guidelines of Annual Monitoring Plans where the Administration explained specific measures and tasks planned for each year. Each Department of the Tax Administration had sectorial Annual Plans to tackle specific risks and they introduced new interventions and methods of data analysis. The long term Plans are still in force in 2014 and nowadays the Tax Administrations has Annual Plans. Information about the results of the fight against tax fraud has to be provided on a regular basis to the Spanish Parliament.

In late November 2012, the Spanish Court of Audit decided to audit the execution of Prevention Plans against Tax fraud in 2010 and 2011. At the end of January 2013, it was decided to extend the temporal scope including 2012. An audit report has been published in February 2014. In this report it has been explained its findings about the main measures undertaken by the Tax Administration from 2010 and 2012.

The audit had as key findings to evaluate if the different planning levels were consistent and the degree of the implementation of the measures and tasks during the three years considered. Some of those, as those concerning debt management and recoveries, were analyzed deeper than other and the economics results obtained were also studied.

As main results of the audit, the level of the implementation of all the measures was outstanding not only because of the level reached but because the number of human resources had decreased during these years. In conclusion, the Tax Administration got better results with fewer human resources.

But even if the final assessment is positive, it is always convenient to look for possible improvements and our main goal as institution is to give an opinion that can help. The report finished with conclusions and recommendations whose summary is:

- The long term planning with its three strategical plans should be better coordinated. In a few risks, measures are just repeated in each Plan.
- Important changes in General Guidelines of Annual Monitoring Plans have been found. These changes had ground not only on the long term planning but on internal reorganizations. These changes make that some results are not easy to be compared.
- The measures had rates to assess the execution and some rates were questioned because the method to calculate the rates was not considered adequate to improve the planning.
- The economic results of the fight against fraud had been analyzed. The results are positive without any doubt, the collection of debt linked with fight against fraud is in 2012 22% higher than in 2010. But improvements are needed because even if the collection of debts is high but the rate of increase of tax debt not collected is being higher than the rate of the collection. Another point interesting to examine closely is the management of debt cancelled without recovery.

Due to the conclusions of the economics results of this report and because a new Act, that introduces new regulation in order to strengthen the measures against Tax Fraud, came into force in 2012, another audit was decided in March 2014. The object of the new audit is to evaluate the debt recovery management during 2012 and 2013. At this moment, it is no possible to give any detail of the findings as the report has not been approved.