



POLITÉCNICA



UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE MADRID
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INGENIEROS INDUSTRIALES**
DEPARTAMENTO DE INGENIERIA MECÁNICA

Contribution to the notification process of:

SPANISH SEISMIC RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION STANDARD

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The draft royal decree for the approval of the Spanish Seismic Construction Standard NCSR, is a dangerously altered copy of EN 1998 that eliminates or changes the 435 references of this Eurocode to other Eurocodes by references to Spanish codes that are incompatible with the Eurocodes. I claim to the EU authorities to do not accept the draft of the Spanish Seismic Resistant Construction regulation due to the following reasons:

1.- The draft lacks technical coherence leading to important risks for the safety of buildings and infrastructures and, therefore, for the safety of the people of the EU and other people outside the EU that could be in EU during a severe seismic event. This draft has already produced alarm, social unrest and a general rejection from hundreds of experts, consulting and constructions companies. The media (TV, radio and newspapers) have reported this unrest and rejection in the last months. Further, university professors, engineers, architects, professional associations, consulting and construction firms related to structural and geotechnical engineering signed a “Manifesto for a coherent and safe seismic regulation” strongly against the draft of NCSR. We do not want in Europe to see the dramatic consequences of earthquakes that we saw recently in Turkey, for example. We claim the Spanish Government to adopt directly all Eurocodes, without any change or modification, since this is the only way to guarantee in Spain a level of safety equal to that of other European countries that have adopted Eurocodes.

2.- The draft produces clear impediments to the free circulation of services and products within Europe. Regarding the free circulation of services: (1) structural or geotechnical projects fully developed with Eurocodes will be rejected in Spain for not complying the Spanish regulation; (2) NCSR does not recognize at all the possibility of using the Eurocodes as a valid alternative to itself; (3) NCSR incorporates numerous alterations to the original text of EN 1998 that lead to different results in the calculations. It is worth recalling the Commission Recommendation 2003/887/EC of 11 December 2003 on the implementation and use of Eurocodes for construction works and structural construction products that clearly states: “The disparities between the various calculation methods referred to in national building regulations hinder the free circulation of engineering and architectural services within the Community”. As for the free circulation of products, for example, a precast concrete element with CE marking (harmonized standards EN 13225 and EN 15050) will be rejected in Spain in seismic areas (a large part of the country) because it does not fulfill the additional ductility properties required by NCSR to the reinforcing steel.

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