

# *Spain's Podemos Proposes Forming Joint Coalition Government*

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Madrid, January 22 (RHC)-- The leader of Spain's leftist party Podemos, Pablo Iglesias, has proposed forming a joint coalition government along with Pedro Sanchez of the Socialist Party PSOE and Alberto Garzon of the United Left.

After a meeting on Friday with Spain's King Felipe VI, Iglesias told a news conference that he had informed the monarch about his decision to form a joint "government of change with the Socialists and the United Left."

Iglesias said he would seek the post of deputy prime minister in the new government, and leave the post of prime minister to Sanchez. "We understand it would be reasonable for Pedro Sanchez to become prime minister, and that it would be reasonable for us to [have] the deputy prime minister," he said.

Iglesias said he would call both Sanchez and Garzon on the phone and talk to the two about his plan.

Following inconclusive general elections of December 20, 2015, Spain's ruling Popular Party (PP), under the leadership of acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, lost its parliamentary majority.

Rajoy and Iglesias, however, both rejected forming an alliance with one another to form a government. Rajoy, instead, called for the formation of a “broad-based, consensus government” with parties sharing his stance on issues such as rejecting Catalans’ bid for independence.

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