

Prince Felipe ascends Spanish throne

The 46-year-old Prince, who becomes head of state as King Felipe VI, faces the challenge of restoring the monarchy's prestige as Spain is beset by scandal, regional separatism and economic discontent

1 Jun 18, Royal Palace: **King Juan Carlos** signs act of abdication – Felipe and his wife **Letizia** become King and Queen at midnight

2 Jun 19, 9.30, Zarzuela Palace: Juan Carlos hands Felipe red sash of captain general – highest rank of army



3 10.30, Congress: Felipe sworn in, witnessed by politicians from both houses of parliament

4 11.30: After military parade, new king and queen greet crowds from balcony of Royal Palace, followed by reception for 2,000 guests



Protests: Republican marches banned on day of proclamation. Polls show most Spaniards would like referendum on monarchy

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia will retain titles after abdication. Government drawing up plans to grant him immunity from prosecution

