

## **The People of Catalonia Have the Right to Vote to Decide Their Future**

The Catalan people have proven to the world that they are ready to seize the reins of their own destiny.

Since the 2010 ruling by the Spanish State Constitutional Court cutting back the Catalan Statute of Autonomy – after it had been approved by the Catalan and Spanish parliaments and endorsed by a majority vote of the Catalan people in a referendum in 2006 – street demonstrations and a range of other actions in favour of sovereignty have united increasing numbers of people in support of the demand for the right to vote for a Catalan state and for Catalan independence. The most recent was the march in Barcelona on September 11, Catalonia's national day, attended by 1.8 million people.

In contrast to the United Kingdom, where the Westminster government reached an agreement with the Scottish Government to carry out a referendum for national self-determination, the government of Spain, led by Mariano Rajoy (of the Peoples' Party), has refused time and again to recognise that Catalonia is a nation where the people have the right to vote and decide the nation's future. Thus, there is no dialogue or process of negotiation between the two sides.

Three hundred years ago, at the height of the War of the Spanish Succession, Philip the Fifth, the new Bourbon Spanish king entered Barcelona after a year-long siege and ended Catalan sovereignty by force of arms, establishing in Catalonia the ancient laws, language and absolute monarchy of Castile. Today, Spain acts to progressively reduce the linguistic, cultural and fiscal rights of Catalonia, agreed in 1978 after the death of Franco. This is contributing to a rapid rise in poverty in Catalonia, paradoxically one of Spain's wealthiest regions and one most supportive of others. The situation is already unsustainable and requires an urgent change towards sovereignty and more socially just policies.

Now the Spanish Government, using its absolute majority in the Spanish parliament, and with the support of the PSOE (the opposition Socialist Workers-Party of Spain), with a biased Constitutional Court that is a political tool of the government, seeks to block "by any means" a peaceful vote by the Catalan people in a non-binding consultation – a consultation on November 9 that under the Spanish Constitution can only have the character of a political protest.

Will the governments, political parties, and democratic forces of Europe, Latin America and the world allow this outrageous violation of democracy to take place?

As a common platform for the different left-of-centre currents that exist in Catalonia—including trade unions, communities, feminists, republicans, supporters of self-determination, supporters of independence, socialists, social democrats and environmentalists—*Esquerra pel Sí-Sí (Left for Yes-Yes)* was founded to push for a positive response to the November 9 consultation.

We are calling on the citizens of Europe and the world, governments, political parties, movements, democratic institutions to support the sovereign right of the Catalan people to decide their future and to ask the Spanish government to allow the people of Catalonia to vote freely and peacefully on November 9.

### **SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT**

**In English:** Against the banning of the consultation of November 9: THE PEOPLE OF CATALONIA HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND TO DECIDE THEIR FUTURE.

**In Spanish:** Ante la prohibición de la consulta del 9 de Noviembre: EL PUEBLO DE CATALUNYA TIENE DERECHO A VOTAR Y A DECIDIR SU FUTURO

**Send to:** Presidente del Gobierno español, Mariano Rajoy: <https://portal-scc.presidencia.gob.es/ciudadan@s/contacto.jsp>