



H.E. Mr Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón
President of the Government of Spain
Complejo de la Moncloa
Avda. Puerta de Hierro, s/n
28071 Madrid

Barcelona, 26 September 2018

Dear President,

You will be aware of the increased show of public support for Catalan independence during this year's Catalan National Day celebrations in Barcelona and elsewhere in Catalonia. The themes under which the people took to the streets in such large numbers were the demand for Catalonia's political leadership to move forward to the establishment an independent republic, and the demand for the release of the political prisoners. As a democrat, you will appreciate that political leaders are the servants of the people, not their masters. I believe the Catalan Government has the necessary popular mandate to move forward on these two issues.

However, the timing of the process is subject to events that are beyond the direct control of politicians. I am informed that the trial of the political prisoners is to be pursued, despite the escalating crisis, and that it is expected to begin at some point before the end of this year.

I have to tell you now that if this prosecution proceeds – based on the accusations also sustained by the Public Prosecutor, and if any of the prisoners are convicted and sentenced to prison for their beliefs, then it is my assessment that the public demands for an independent republic will become overwhelming.

I have made it clear on a number of occasions that the Catalan political leadership is ready to take part in a mediated dialogue with your Government in an effort to avert an escalation in the current crisis and to reach a settlement of the Catalan question through negotiations. This stance has also been made clear by President Puigdemont.

I am now writing to you formally to ask you to authorize your Government to enter mediated dialogue as quickly as possible. The Catalan side is ready to begin this process without preconditions. The gap is not in my view, unbridgeable. The Catalan side is not fixed upon securing immediate independence from Spain. Our objective in the negotiations is simple: to ensure respect for the democratically expressed will of the majority of the Catalan population, through a legally binding free and fair referendum, in which both sides agree to abide by the result.



You will understand that it would be increasingly difficult to move onto substantive talks about the future relationship between Catalonia and Spain whilst nine members of the Catalan political leadership remain in prison, and other seven in exile, for allegedly pursuing an independence referendum. We would therefore ask you, as a significant gesture towards Catalan society, to invite the Public Prosecutor to withdraw the charges or, for the time being at least, lift all objections to their provisional release, pending trial, as a confidence-building measure. Providing the nine have been released, the Catalan side is ready to explore all possible options with Madrid.

Our negotiating team is always ready to begin discussions. I am therefore asking you to confirm in writing, as soon as possible, that your Government is ready to enter mediated negotiations; to identify your negotiating team; to open channels of communication between the two sides; and to begin proximity talks aimed at agreeing the logistics and modalities for the whole process. You may also wish to suggest one or more institutional mediators and observers to facilitate the substantive dialogue process. If so, we are ready to do the same.

I am copying this letter to the EU and world leaders listed below so that the dialogue process can be as transparent as possible. It is obviously in the interests of both sides, and of the world, for this process to succeed, since an orderly and peaceful resolution of the situation is the only means remaining to avert a European crisis.

However, let me reiterate, that in the absence of meaningful dialogue, my prediction is that the trial and conviction of the political prisoners is likely to lead to an overwhelming demand for immediate independence from Spain. For all our sakes, a managed transition would be the preferable course, and it is the one which I am now proposing.

I look forward to hearing from you at the earliest opportunity taking into consideration the time frame in which we are moving at this stage,

Yours sincerely,

Quim Torra i Pla
President of Catalonia



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- H.E. Mr Antoni Martí Petit, Head of Government of Andorra
- H.E. Mr Sebastian Kurz, Federal Chancellor of Austria
- H.E. Mr Sergei Rumas, Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus
- H.E. Mr Charles Michel, Prime Minister of Belgium
- H.E. Mr Denis Zvizdić, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- H.E. Mr Boyko Borissov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria
- H.E. Mr Xi Jinping, President of People's Republic of China
- H.E. Mr Andrej Plenković, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia
- H.E. Mr Nicos Anastasiades, President of the Republic of Cyprus
- H.E. Mr Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic
- H.E. Mr Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark
- H.E. Mr Jüri Ratas, Prime Minister of Estonia
- H.E. Mr Juha Sipilä, Prime Minister of Finland
- Mr D Geert Bourgeois, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders
- H.E. Ms Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
- H.E. Mr Alexis Tsipras, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic
- H.E. Mr Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary
- H.E. Ms Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland
- H.E. Mr Leo Varadkar, Prime Minister of Ireland
- H.E. Mr Giuseppe Conte, Prime Minister of Italy
- H.E. Mr Ramush Haradinaj, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo
- H.E. Mr Māris Kučinskis, Prime Minister of Latvia
- H.E. Mr Saulius Skvernelis, Prime Minister of Lithuania
- H.E. Mr Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg
- H.E. Mr Zoran Zaev, Prime Minister of the Republic Macedonia
- H.E. Mr Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta
- H.E. Mr Duško Marković, Prime Minister of Montenegro
- H.E. Mr Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands
- H.E. Ms Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway
- H.E. Mr Mateusz Morawiecki, Prime Minister of Poland
- H.E. Mr António Costa, Prime Minister of Portugal
- H.E. Ms Viorica Dăncilă, Prime Minister of Romania
- H.E. Mr Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation
- The Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland
- H.E. Ms Ana Brnabic, Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia
- H.E. Mr Peter Pellegrini, Prime Minister of Slovakia
- H.E. Mr Marjan Šarec, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia
- H.E. Mr Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister of Sweden
- H.E. Mr Alain Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation

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- H.E. Mr Volodymyr Groysman, Prime Minister of Ukraine
- The Rt Hon Theresa May, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- H.E. Mr Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America
- His Holiness Pope Francis

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