

Motions and Declarations

Motion/Declaration number	3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOTION <input type="checkbox"/> DECLARATION	
Name of the person introducing the Motion/Declaration to the GA	Jordi Solé
Member party	Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya
Title (of the Motion/Declaration)	Catalonia: end of repression, dialogue, amnesty and self-determination

On October 14, one of the most shameful judgments that Europe has seen in recent years was announced. This was the ruling of the Spanish Supreme Court against the Catalan political prisoners, sentenced in total to almost 100 years in prison under the pretext of sedition crimes (virtually non-existent in criminal codes of consolidated democratic states) and embezzlement of public funds. Crimes that the condemned have never committed, because putting polls in a democracy, following a popular mandate, can never be a crime. The exercise of self-determination is not a crime but a right.

Following this ruling, the president of ERC and EFA's Spitzenkandidat Oriol Junqueras was sentenced to 13 years in prison. Ministers Romeva, Turull and Bassa, to 12 years in prison. The President of Parliament Carme Forcadell, to 11 and a half years in prison. Ministers Forn and, to 10 and a half years in prison. And the social leaders Jordi Cuixart and Jordi Sánchez, to 9 years in prison.

This ignominious sentence provoked a wave of indignation in the Catalan population, which mobilized massively again to protest against this unworthy judicial decision. Hundreds of independence supporters are charged with crimes for these protests. There were a total of 241 arrests and 30 people entered prison (6 of which still continue to be in prison).

On the other hand, more than 50 politicians, senior government officials and mayors continue to be investigated by the Spanish courts for their involvement in the October the 1st referendum. In parallel to this, the Spanish Court of Auditors asks for bail bonds and imposes millionaire fines to the previous Catalan government for the holding of the referendum, bails and fines that have been covered thanks to the solidarity of Catalan society.

In addition, Spain has tried to prevent that the leaders of the "Catalan October" who candidated in the last European elections (Junqueras, Puigdemont, Comín and Ponsatí) could exercise the representation that citizens had given them at the polls. In the case of the members of the "Junts per Europa" candidacy, Spain did not succeed, and we in EFA celebrate that today MEPs Puigdemont, Comín and Ponsatí

can be acting as such. The case of Oriol Junqueras, however, constitutes a new and flagrant injustice of the Spanish authorities. Despite the ruling of the EU Court of Justice last December, which recognized Junqueras as a MEP - and therefore his immunity - since the proclamation of the official results of the elections, on 3rd of January the Spanish electoral administration and the Spanish Supreme Court arbitrarily decided to withdraw him the MEP credential.

In this context of judicialization, repression and criminal and economic persecution of independence, a small slit of hope has been opened with the launch of a dialogue process between the Catalan and Spanish governments, headed by Presidents Torra and Sánchez. This dialogue and negotiation table, which must seek political means of resolving a conflict that is of a political nature, has been promoted by ERC, which put it as a condition to allow the investiture of Pedro Sánchez as president of the Spanish Government.

Moreover, in the coming months Catalans will be called back to the polls to elect a new Parliament of Catalonia. This can become an opportunity to expand the majority in favour of independence for Catalonia.

Given all these facts, the EFA:

- 1) shows its solidarity with Catalonia and its support for the creation, by strictly democratic mechanisms, of a Catalan Republic, member of the EU.
- 2) considers the prison sentences of Catalan political prisoners unacceptable and demands their immediate release through an amnesty. Calls also for those Catalans in exile to be able to safely return home without any threats of being arrested.
- 3) demands that Spain stops repression against Catalan independence movement and immediately puts an end to the judicial and economic persecution of this political movement, which is democratic, legitimate, and aligned with the founding values of the EU.
- 4) Following the 19th of December judgment of the EU Court of Justice, demands that all the civic and political rights of Oriol Junqueras be immediately restored and that he can exercise as a Member of the European Parliament
- 5) supports the negotiating table between the Catalan and Spanish governments, made possible by Esquerra Republicana, to explore political solutions to the conflict between Catalonia and Spain, which is political in nature. Any solution must go through the release of prisoners, the return of exiles, and the exercise of the right to self-determination.
- 6) wishes that in the next Catalan elections our member party, ERC, as well as the Catalan independence movement, will be reinforced. This will be the best proof of the democratic solidity and resilience of Catalan independence movement and its political objectives, as well as of the failure of the repressive path adopted by the Spanish State and endorsed by Europe through its unacceptable silence.