

President Mas: “The Spanish government should start taking the measures required by the IMF, and the sooner the better”

- The Head of Government stresses that under the present circumstances “decisions have to be made with courage and determination, as has been done in Catalonia”
- Artur Mas considers that in the coming days “it will be decided whether we can achieve a stronger, more powerful Europe, while at the same time achieving more power for territories such as Catalonia”

The Catalan President, Artur Mas, yesterday afternoon urged “the Spanish government to take the measures suggested to it by the International Monetary Fund”, stressing that it should do so “the sooner the better”. “I am convinced that some of the decisions that have recently been made in Catalonia, decisions that required courage and determination, will finally also be adopted in the rest of Spain”, he stated.

The Head of Government emphasized that Catalonia has been an example in this respect, convinced that “all of us are faced with obligations which are difficult but absolutely essential to fulfil”.

Artur Mas made these statements in Gandesa, where he attended the commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the town being awarded the title of “The Most Loyal and Heroic City of Gandesa”.

During his speech, the President also stressed the transcendence of today’s elections in Greece and the decisions that will be made in the coming days at the European level. He stated that “it will be decided whether we can achieve a stronger, more powerful Europe, while at the same time achieving more power for territories such as Catalonia, because in the end the policies affecting the population most directly require proximity”. He added that at this point in time “Europe will have to make certain decisions that will allow us to enjoy a more peaceful and stable future”.

175th anniversary of the title “The Most Loyal and Heroic City of Gandesa”

With regard to the 175th anniversary of being awarded the title of “Most Loyal and Heroic”, which was celebrated yesterday in the town of Gandesa, the Catalan President pointed out that, besides the distinction itself, the celebration was dedicated to “the shared values of courage, valour, the defence of dignity and the capacity to cope with hardship shown by the people of Gandesa”, which have proven to be “values we need more than ever”.

The President expressed the hope that the spirit of the people of Gandesa “will serve to inspire the entire Catalan population” and showed himself convinced that “the courage and determination we need to overcome the current situation will once again prove to be a distinguishing feature of Catalan society”.

As part of the celebration, the President and the other authorities also visited the house of the Baroness of Purroy, Maria Lluïsa Dara i Zamora, and attended a mass celebrated by the Bishop of Tortosa, Xavier Salinas.

Besides President Mas, the celebration was attended by the Mayor of Gandesa, Carles Luz; the 3rd Vice-President of the Congress of Deputies, Dolors Montserrat; and the Catalan Government's Delegate for Terres de l'Ebre, Xavier Pallarès, among others.