



H.E. Mr Mark Rutte
Prime Minister
Ministry of General Affairs
P.O. 20001, 2500 EA The Hague
The Kingdom of the Netherlands

Dear Prime Minister,

I wanted to let you know personally about the latest very important developments in Catalonia. On 12 December political parties representing sixty-five per cent of the Parliament of Catalonia agreed to hold a referendum on the future of Catalonia.

The referendum will ask the two-part question "Do you want Catalonia to become a State?" and if so, "Do you want the State to be independent?" The referendum will be held on 9 November 2014.

This process is the demand of the Catalan people, expressed in the mandate given at the last elections on 25 November 2012 and demonstrated repeatedly by popular action.

Contrary to some reports, there are a number of legal and constitutional options which allow this referendum to take place in Catalonia. We have identified five of those ways at least, and I have written to the government of Spain outlining them.

We seek dialogue and agreement with the government of Spain on the future of our country.

I am confident that I can rely on you to encourage the peaceful, democratic, transparent, and European process to which I and a vast majority of the Catalan people are fully committed.

Yours faithfully,



Artur Mas

Barcelona, 20 December 2013