



Generalitat de Catalunya



COMMON DECLARATION

Today it is our privilege to hold our first meeting at *Palau de la Generalitat*.

President Bourgeois has visited the *World Mobile Congress* this morning and emphasized the extremely interesting and sublimely organized Fair, where all the important players of the mobile telephone world are present. A number of companies from Flanders are taking part in this Fair, and we hope their participation will be very successful.

In 1992 Flanders and Catalunya signed a *Declaration of Intent* on mutual cooperation. Starting from there, their governments have been in touch constantly.

In 2008 a new *Autonomy Statute* allowed Catalunya to sign international agreements where Catalan competences are involved. On the same year a *Cooperation Agreement* between Flanders and Catalunya was signed in Barcelona. Over the last years the implementation of the agreement has mainly been focused on cooperation in culture, public works, economy, commerce and science.

A new *Work Program 2015-2017* indicating priorities for cooperation in the next years will be finalized and signed before the summer.

In our meeting we have had a very interesting conversation. We briefed on the current situation of the Flemish and the Catalan political arenas, on the main lines of the respective governments' policies, on the main ongoing matters in the European Union, and finally on the key issues of the international and European economic situation.

We highlight that during our conversation:

- We reconfirmed our government's position in favour of a dynamic cooperation between Flanders and Catalunya, especially in strengthening the role of regions and territories with legislative powers in the European decision-making process. And we agreed to jointly explore alternative forms of cooperation.
- We discussed the need for our governments to think and to act more internationally in a European Union that is being challenged both from within and from the outside. Both our societies are very internationally oriented, and our economies dependent on foreign markets and investments.



Generalitat de Catalunya



- We agreed on the need for more growth and jobs in the EU and the Eurozone. This requires sustained structural reforms within member states and regions, and higher private and public investments for which the EU should provide an enabling regulatory environment
- President Bourgeois highlighted that he admires the Catalan people's determination to get a stronger grip on their future. And that it is reassuring to see Catalunya's commitment to the path of democracy and legality to meet its objectives.

Barcelona, 4 March 2015