



Barcelona, October 16th, 2017

Dear President Rajoy,

The situation in which we find ourselves at the moment is of such importance that only answers and political solutions of the highest level will suffice. My letter hopes to reach that level, as is expected by the majority in our society and as expected in Europe, which doesn't contemplate any other way to resolve conflicts other than dialogue, negotiation and accord.

With this in mind, I was surprised by your written text of last October 11th announcing the intention of your government to put into effect article 155 of the Constitution in order to suspend Catalan self-government.

When, on October 10th, attending to the request of numerous international, Spanish and Catalan figures and institutions, I presented to you a sincere offer of dialogue, I did not do so as an expression of weakness, but rather as an honest proposal to find a solution to the relationship between the Spanish state and Catalonia which has been in a state of deadlock for many years.

On Sunday October 1st, in the middle of violent police action denounced by the most prestigious international organisms, more than two million Catalans entrusted to the Parliament the democratic mandate to declare independence. One must also add to the result of this referendum the result of the most recent elections to the Parliament of Catalonia, where a clear majority of 47.7% voted for independence parties, as against the 39.1% who voted for parties explicitly against independence. It is also necessary to remember that 80% of citizens have repeatedly expressed their intention to decide their future by way of an agreed referendum. Accepting reality is the way to resolve problems.

The priority of my government is always to seek solutions by way of dialogue. We want to talk, as well-established democracies do, about the problem placed before us by the majority of the Catalan people, who wish to undertake a journey as an independent country within the framework of Europe.

The suspension of the political mandate resulting from the poll of October 1st demonstrates our firm intention to find the solution rather than generate confrontation. We would like to do this by way of agreement both in the objectives sought and in the way we find them. Our proposal of dialogue is sincere and



honest. Because of this, over the coming two months, our main objective is to appeal to you to dialogue, and that all of those international, Spanish and Catalan figures and institutions who have expressed their disposition to taking part in negotiation may have the opportunity to explore such an option. This will show the commitment of all sides to finding an agreed solution.

In light of everything I say, I ask of you two things:

The first is to reverse the repression against the people and government of Catalonia. This very Monday two leaders of Catalan civil society, who have been organising the peaceful demonstrations by millions of people since the year 2010, are to appear, charged, in court. Also charged is the chief of the Catalan police (Mossos d'Esquadra), one of the most respected police forces in Europe, which faithfully and rigorously fulfils its duty.

In this episode of repression we have also seen, among other things, the violation of fundamental rights: the intervention with and freezing of bank accounts which prevents us from fulfilling our obligations to people who most need them; internet and media censorship; interference in private post; detention of public servants; brutal police violence against a peaceful population on October 1st.

Our proposal of dialogue is sincere, in spite of all that has occurred, but logically it is not compatible with the current climate of threats and rising tension.

The second request is that we organise a meeting, as soon as possible, which will allow us to explore initial agreement. Let's not allow this situation to deteriorate more. In good faith, recognising and facing the problem head on, I'm sure that we can find a way towards a solution.

Yours sincerely,

Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó