

Official Statement by President Puigdemont following the Declaration of Independence

Barcelona, 28 October 2017

My fellow citizens,

Yesterday we lived a historic day, a day filled with democratic and civic feelings. The Parliament of Catalonia complied with what the citizens voted on September 27 when the majority derived from the polls entrusted Parliament with the proclamation of independence.

Yesterday, also, the Spanish Council of Ministers sanctioned the removal of the entire Catalan Government, the intervention of our self-government and the dissolution of Parliament. These are decisions contrary to the will expressed in the polls by the citizens of our country who know perfectly well that, in a democratic society, it is the parliament which elects or removes presidents.

However, in these first few hours, all of you have understood that the stage in which we have entered must be defended with an untiring civic sense and peaceful commitment. Your reaction is one of a mature country that knows where it wants to go and how it wants to get there. We will not steer away from this path: we will continue to have the only attitude that can make us victors in this. Without violence, without insults, in an inclusive way, respecting people and symbols, opinions, and respecting the criticisms of the Catalans who don't agree with what the parliamentary majority decided.

Our will is to continue working to fulfil the democratic mandates and, at the same time, seek maximum stability and tranquillity, understanding the logical difficulties involved in a stage of this nature. One, which our country has never experienced, or at least never before under these circumstances.

The message I would like to address to you is that we need to have patience, perseverance and perspective. We are sure that the best way to defend the achievements reached to date is through the democratic opposition to the application of Article 155, which is the consummation of a premeditated aggression against the will of the Catalans who, for many years and in a majoritarian way, have felt to be a nation of Europe.

We must do so by protecting ourselves from repression and threats, and without ever abandoning our civic and peaceful conduct. We don't have or want the reason of force. Not us. I'm convinced that this demand is what everybody expects, outside of the country as well.

We will continue working to build a free country, to ensure we have a society with less injustice, more equality, more solidarity and more fraternity with all the peoples of the world, starting with the peoples of Spain with whom we want to remain connected through respect and mutual recognition.



Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament de la Presidència
**Direcció General de Comunicació
del Govern**

Thank you very much.

Carles Puigdemont Casamajó
President of the Catalan Government
