



Dear President Tajani,

We deeply regret your decision not to allow the scheduled event for Monday 18th: "Catalonia and the trial on the referendum: a challenge for the EU".

We would like to know on what grounds you have decided that the planned event, organized by MEPs Ralph Packet and Ivo Vajgl, has been considered a security problem.

During the last year, both of us have visited several Parliaments and countries with absolute normality including the Parliaments of Flanders, Finland, Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom, Bavaria, Slovenia and the USA.

Moreover, two years ago a conference was held in the European Parliament, titled "The Catalan Referendum" with absolute normality with the participation of Carles Puigdemont, Oriol Junqueras and Raül Romeva, the latest two former MEPs that are currently in prison and facing the trial, which is at the heart of the planned conference for Monday 18th.

As the President of the democratically elected parliament of the EU, the duty of your institution is to preserve freedom of speech as the most superior value, party politics or supposed security concerns should not be used to silence legitimate ideas. The contrary, would be a shame for Europe and damages the democratic credibility of the EU.

In any case, even if you don't rectify your censorship, the conference on the Trial on the Catalan referendum and its impact for the EU will be held in Brussels, at the same hour and day as was planned. The details will be announced when your decision to ban the event is confirmed.

We are free citizens and we'll express ourselves freely.

Hoping for a quick, clear and democratic answer,

Quim Torra, 131th President of Catalonia

Carles Puigdemont, 130th President of Catalonia

15th February of 2019