

## **Joint statement by President of Catalonia and Minister President of Flanders**

*Barcelona, December 1st 2019*

The President of Catalonia and the Minister President of Flanders, in an official meeting in Barcelona have strengthened the bonds between our nations.

The ongoing success of the Flanders-Catalonia cooperation plan is a seed that we must work to build on in order to increase the progress of our societies. This is particularly important regarding the digitalization of our economies, where the exchange of best practices and innovative policies is fundamental and cannot be stopped. A better Europe must be built from the bottom-up.

On the political sphere, both President and Minister President welcomed the resolution of the Flemish Parliament, which unanimously called for political dialogue between Catalonia and Spain and the release of the political prisoners. Both President and Minister President agree that the solution needs to be addressed through negotiation and ballot boxes, not courts. The referendum in Scotland, the idea of peaceful self-determination should be the basis of a political solution in Catalonia.

Finally, both governments believe that the EU must establish a mechanism that can allow the integration of new independent states born through democratic means inside the Union.