



To all the people of Catalonia

The success or failure of a society depends ultimately on its people. Catalonia's position of leadership in Spain as well as its special character are rooted in a social and historical reality that cannot be challenged. The Catalans have progressed together thanks to our joint efforts, dialogue, democracy and respect for plurality.

This is why we cannot remain silent when faced by the attempts to secede that would tear us away from Spain, breaking the profound links that unite us all as Spaniards. Nor do we wish to be excluded from the exciting and enriching project that is Europe. This separation would not only entail great expense that would cut into the welfare of all Catalans but, more importantly, it would cause considerable emotional harm to personal ties that would fracture Catalan society, going against its history of integration.

The present and future of Catalonia

We claim a democratic Catalonia, based on respect for the Rule of Law and valuing freedom and coexistence. We also support a Spain that has a deep identity with all its languages and cultures; a Spain that can boast of union in diversity. We want an open society that enjoys and defends dialogue, that can compete to meet the challenges of a global world, and that avoids sterile confrontations.

We want a Catalonia that unequivocally identifies with all its languages, Catalan, Spanish and Aranese, and treats them with respect and consideration in all fields, including of course education. Our land should continue to be a bastion of creativity and cultural wealth that has contributed so richly to our Spanish and universal cultural heritage. We want Catalonia to become once again a place that is attractive intellectually and commercially, a home that breathes a dynamic, entrepreneurial and cosmopolitan atmosphere.

We do not want it and it would not be right for us

The free-spirited Catalans proclaim that Catalonia is not "oppressed". There is no political, economic or emotional argument that could justify the enormous social cost of the independence "process". We do not want independence and it would not be right for us. We do not want to feel strangers in our own land! We must not forget that populism has written the most tragic pages in our recent history.

In the face of this serious situation Catalan civil society must wake up and make its voice heard. In the 21st century we must be capable of solving problems by means of dialogue, uniting instead of separating. Catalan civil society has always proven to the rest of Spain and to Europe that it is law-abiding, open to dialogue and offering mutual support. Let us honour this legacy.

Now is the time for Catalan civil society

The signatories of this manifesto, men and women of Catalonia with different personal and professional origins, with differing ideologies but a shared awareness of our pluralist identity, are committed to working for a Catalonia that will keep its leading position in modern Spain and Europe; a Catalonia that is proud of its history and traditions, of its cultural and linguistic wealth, a model of plural coexistence.

For these reasons, we call on all Catalans to mobilise for an open Catalonia in a Spain that belongs to all of us.

Barcelona, 23rd April 2014