



PROFESSIONAL COLLEGES STATEMENT

TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PROFESSIONALS FOR THE RIGHT TO DECIDE?

On 21 July in Barcelona University, Òmnium Cultural presented the campaign “The professional world for the right to decide”. The event was organised jointly with the Catalan College of Architects, the Catalan College of Physicians, the Catalan College of Journalists, the Barcelona College of Industrial Engineers, the Catalan Council of Pharmaceutical Colleges, and the Intercollegiate Association, which defends the professional interests of more than a hundred professional colleges in Catalonia.

The event was chaired by the Rector of the University, Dídac Ramírez, in the presence of the Chair of Òmnium Cultural, Muriel Casals, and was addressed by the Dean of the Barcelona College of Architects and the Head of Institutional Relations of the Intercollegiate Association, Lluís Comerón, the Professor of Psychiatry at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Miquel Casas, and the Vice-Rector for Communication and Projection of Barcelona University, Pere Quetglas.

In view of the fact that Òmnium Cultural has quite shamelessly issued a statement in which it claims that the professional world, which consists of 200,000 professional people, has aligned itself with the holding of the referendum on 9 November, a good number of members of Societat Civil Catalana who are members of the colleges that took part in this event have made us aware of their most energetic rejection of the formal support that their representatives have given to the referendum.

In response to their requests and bearing in mind that:

- Neither support for self-determination in Catalonia nor involvement with the campaign run by Òmnium Cultural in favour of the referendum has been submitted to a vote by the members of the Professional Colleges of Catalonia.
- It is known that the Governing Bodies of the Professional Colleges are elected by processes that involve the participation of between 10 and 30% of the membership and that no candidate's platform lent explicit support to the referendum.



- Law 2/1974 of 13 February, concerning the Professional Colleges, Law 7/2006 of 31 May, concerning Professional Colleges in Catalonia, and also the respective Statutes of these professional bodies, state that the purpose of the professional associations, professional colleges and councils of professional colleges is to ensure that the actions of their professional members respond to the interests and needs of society with regard to the performance of professional activities and especially to compliance with the best practices and the ethical obligations of the profession, as well as representing and defending the professional interests of their members.

In the light of the foregoing, Societat Civil Catalana:

- Regrets the intention to present a false appearance of unanimity in favour of the referendum on 9 November by the representatives of some Professional Colleges.
- Recalls that nobody can attribute to themselves the political will of the Catalan professional people, above all when this has not been expressed beforehand in a democratic process within the Catalan Professional Colleges.
- Deplores the assumption by the participants in the event organised by Òmnium Cultural of a power to which they are not entitled in a matter of the very greatest social and political importance, lending support to a referendum on self-determination.

In order to reclaim the essential neutrality of the Catalan Professional Colleges, Societat Civil Catalana announces that it has sent a letter to the Deans and/or Chairs of all the professional colleges in Catalonia asking for a meeting to explain the position of our association with regard to the referendum on 9 November and requesting their bodies to bear in mind that the professional members of these Colleges, like Catalan society as a whole, also reflect a range of political points of view.