

## STATEMENT ON THE ELIMINATION OF THE CRIME OF SEDITION

Barcelona, November 11, 2022

Given the reform of the Penal Code announced by the President of the Government of Spain, which will eliminate the crime of sedition from the Spanish legal system to replace it with that of "aggravated public disorder" (with a maximum sentence of five years), the **Board of Directors of Societat Civil Catalana**, a transversal citizen platform of a strictly civil nature, states the following:

- The decision adopted by the Government of the Nation is of extraordinary historical gravity since it erodes the strength and capacity of the State to face future attempts to subvert the constitutional order by the nationalist political parties. When the separatists pose a new challenge - which they will - they will find the state weaker as it will lack some of the main tools to defend its integrity.
- The Government of Spain has delivered a resounding victory to the nationalist parties, negotiating the fundamental rights of all Catalans in exchange for the interests of a political party represented by those convicted of sedition and fugitives from Justice. Not everything is acceptable to stay in power and once again, and in a particularly damaging way, partisan necessity and parliamentary geometry have been imposed on State policy.
- The "des-judicialization" demanded by the nationalist Catalan regime to negotiate the nation's budget with the parliamentary parties that support the Spanish Coalition Government is nothing but a euphemism for "no justice" and impunity so that the Catalan authorities can do and undo at their convenience and regardless of the law and court rulings.
- The Government modifies a substantial part of our legal system through the back door and with minimal controls, thus facilitating the return to public activity of convicted persons who broke the coexistence among citizens and dragged Catalonia into economic and social decline.
- Far from ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens, as is its obligation, the Spanish Executive leaves all Catalans and the rest of Spaniards helpless and legitimizes an exclusionary and populist regime that neither respects the law nor submits to the rules of the Democratic State of Law, violating the constitutional rights and freedoms of Catalans who do not share this particular ideology.
- This sterile strategy of appeasement not only does not heal wounds nor does it allow progress towards understanding and harmony among all Catalans, but it also constitutes a humiliation and a mockery for the constitutionalist Catalans who for years have fought for a Catalonia with quality standards comparable to those of any European democracy. The former Minister of Government Affairs of Canada, Stéphane Dion, has already warned, in relation to Quebec separatism, that the strategy of appeasement is a serious mistake and does not work because nationalism is insatiable; a fact that has also been revealed in Catalonia over the last forty years.