



1 **On the political situation in Catalonia**

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4 In recent weeks, the political situation in Catalonia has been on the European agenda. It is an
5 issue that can no longer be ignored. We, the European Greens, have always been supportive
6 of the widely shared aspirations of most of Catalan society to have the right to decide itself
7 on better and more developed self-government of Catalan institutions. However, this has
8 become a situation threatening to spin out of control with potentially severe impacts for
9 everyone, including the EU, and with the worrying prospect of undesirable polarisation and
10 confrontation within Catalan society itself. Catalonia is a complex society that requires a
11 nuanced approach, political solutions and an institutional framework that is acceptable to
12 the majority of its population. In recent years, the Spanish government has simply ignored
13 the conflict's political dimension and has failed to provide a political response to calls to find
14 a new arrangement. More recently, the Catalan government has taken a unilateral pathway
15 that cannot be considered as legitimate, raising internal confrontation in Catalan society and
16 depicting a grim scenario of isolation and political and economic uncertainty, primarily for
17 Catalonia, and for Spain, but also for the EU as a whole. Unless the situation de-escalates, we
18 could soon be facing a dramatic situation.

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20 Being aware that the situation is volatile and developments in any direction cannot be taken
21 for granted, we, the European Greens, would like to express the following:

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23 1. It is time to leave aside entrenched positions. The Catalan government should
24 abandon the use and threat of the 'Unilateral Declaration of Independence', and the
25 Spanish government should not disproportionately distort Catalan self-government to
26 avoid the former, removing threats to completely suspend the current political
27 autonomy. Now is the time for dialogue and to come up with new approaches. It is
28 urgent for all parties involved to de-escalate tension and establish pathways for
29 political dialogue, between governments, within both parliaments (Spanish and
30 Catalan) and within civil society to explore a political solution, a new institutional
31 framework, and the necessary recognition that Spain is a plurinational state.
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33 2. European and international actors should play an active role in promoting dialogue
34 between the parties as well as mediating and overcoming any mistrust when required
35 to do so by both sides.
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37 3. Violence must be rejected. Repression against peaceful civilians can not be justified
38 by political or legal pretexts. As Human Rights Watch concluded: "Police used
39 excessive force in Catalonia" during the events on 1st October. We condemn that
40 violence and call on the Spanish authorities to apologise, open an investigation into
41 the events that occurred, and to assume the disciplinary and political implications of
42 this.



Draft EGP Resolution

- 43 4. We do not accept the results of the so-called referendum that took place on 1st
44 October, in Catalonia, as valid, given the absence of minimum procedural guarantees,
45 as acknowledged by international observers, and given that it was not recognised as
46 such by most of the Catalan people. Therefore, it has no basis for legitimate unilateral
47 steps towards independence, and in particular the Unilateral Declaration of
48 Independence.
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- 50 5. Assuming the values that are the foundation of the European Union, we call for a
51 negotiated resolution of the political conflict which aligns the respect for the rule of
52 law with the main aspirations for change in the current situation. The agreement
53 should be validated through an agreed referendum.
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- 55 6. In our opinion, the political solution requires the constitutional acceptance of Spain's
56 plurinationality, a reformed institutional framework that modernises the Spanish
57 state, making it compatible with widely shared demands of the Catalan people,
58 establishing fraternal links between Catalan society and the rest of Spain while
59 defusing the hate dynamics, and building a more democratic European Union to bury
60 old grievances.

Since this situation may evolve quickly, we will follow up on any developments.
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