



Declaration nr.4 **Unanimously approved** by the EFA GA on 17 April 2015.

Name of the person introducing the declaration: Elisabet Nebreda

On behalf of the party: Esquerra Republicana

Declaration: Support to the Catalan elections to be held on the 27th of September 2015 as a plebiscite to independence

Bearing in mind that

- a. On the 11th of September 2012, Catalonia's National Day, 1.5 million people attended a demonstration in Barcelona with 'Catalonia: Next State in Europe' as its slogan.
- b. In November 2012 early elections were held in Catalonia. As a result, 80% of the Parliament of Catalonia supported the right to self-determination.
- c. In January 2013, the Parliament of Catalonia approved the Declaration of sovereignty.
- d. In March 2013 a vast majority (77%) of the Catalan Parliament requested the Catalan President to start negotiations with the Spanish Government so as to hold a self-determination referendum in Catalonia.
- e. On the 11th of September 2013, about 2 million Catalans held hands to form The Catalan Way Towards Independence – a human chain covering 400 km from the north to the south of Catalonia, inspired by 1989's Baltic Way.
- f. In December 2013, the Catalan Government and six parties agreed on the date and the question for the self-determination referendum, reaching a historic agreement: the referendum would take place on 9 November 2014 and it would ask a two-part question: "Do you want Catalonia to be a State? If so, do you want Catalonia to be an independent State?"
- g. In January 2014, the Parliament of Catalonia made a formal petition asking the Spanish Government to transfer the necessary powers to hold the referendum.
- h. In April 2014, the Spanish Parliament voted against transferring referendum powers to Catalonia. The two largest Spanish parties (PP and PSOE) coincided and voted NO.
- i. On the 11th of September 2014, 1.8 M people took the streets of Barcelona to celebrate Catalonia's National Day asking to vote on 9 November forming an 11km-long flag mosaic in the form of a giant V.
- j. On the 19th of September 2014, the Catalan Parliament approved the Law on Non-Binding Popular Consultations with 79% of the MP's in favour.
- k. On the 27th of September 2014, the President of Catalonia, Artur Mas, signed the decree calling an independence vote on 9 November.

l. On the 29th of September, two days later, the Government of Spain, met in an extraordinary Council of Ministers and decided to appeal, at the Spanish Constitutional Court, the Government of Catalonia's decree to convene a consultation on the political future of Catalonia, scheduled for November 9, and the Catalan Parliament's law upon which the decree is based, alleging the unconstitutionality of both initiatives.

m. In October 2014, due to the Constitutional Court's suspension of the scheduled consultation, President Mas announced a new vote through a public participatory process.

n. On the 9th of November 2014, despite the impediments of the Spanish government and the state's juridical bodies, 2.3 million Catalans voted in the participatory process on independence. The result was 80.76% in favour and 4.54% against.

o. On the 21st of November 2014, the Spanish State Prosecutor filed a complaint and sought criminal charges against President Mas, the Vice-President and the Minister of Education in relation to the 9N vote.

p. On the 14th of January 2015, following an agreement between the two main pro-independence parties (CiU and ERC) and representatives from the main civil society organisations supporting self-determination, it was decided that Catalonia will have a de facto independence referendum via early elections on 27 September 2015.

q. On the 25th of February, the Spanish Constitutional Court ruled that the November 9 independence vote was unconstitutional

The European Free Alliance declares that:

- The Spanish Government has continuously blocked all the alternatives proposed by the Catalan authorities to hold a democratic and specific vote on independence so far.
- It regrets that *Societat Civil Catalana* (SCC), an organization whose main goal is to prevent the Catalan people from exercising their right to self-determination, was chosen by the European Parliament as one of the 50 recipients of the 2014 European Citizen's Prize.
- The Catalan people have the right to decide its own future by democratic means, according to its political will.
- It firmly condemns the politicization of the Spanish judicial system after the decision taken by the Spanish Prosecutor, following the pressures and insistence of the Spanish Government, to file a complaint against President Mas, the Vice-President and the Minister of Education of Catalonia, under the accusation of usurpation, disobedience, embezzlement and perversion of a legal process. It also regrets the 3-year suspension of Judge Vidal for having drafted a proposal of Catalan Constitution in his own spare time.

- The self-determination movements in Catalonia and other stateless nations of Europe will serve as a catalyst for new political identities and new forms of belonging to the European Union.
- It supports the radically democratic and peaceful process of independence of Catalonia, which in turn it might help to speed up the democratic reform of the EU.
- It welcomes the celebration of the 27th of September 2015 elections that will serve as a plebiscite to independence in Catalonia and hopes that the support to pro-independence parties will be absolute and majoritarian in the new Catalan Parliament.

Explanatory note:

Our party would very much appreciate once more the support of EFA and of our international colleagues on the ongoing process towards independence. The Catalan movement is facing a fierce opposition by the Spanish state, which is using all possible means to stop democracy and block every single proposal the Catalan parties are offering in order to allow the Catalan people to decide their future freely and democratically.

The 27th of September elections will serve as a de facto referendum, that can become the point of no return in the process of Catalan self-determination, should an absolute majority of votes to be cast to support pro-independence parties. A clear and incontestable win in these elections is thus crucial.