



Doc. 15060

31 January 2020

Protecting the right to political representation in Catalonia

Written declaration No. 704

This written declaration commits only those who have signed it

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

The Spanish authorities are taking worrying steps, which clearly affect the fundamental right to political representation in Catalonia.

On the one hand, they are denying the democratic right to take office of the elected Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Oriol Junqueras, as recognised by the European Court of Justice.

On the other, they reject the rights of two other MEPs, Carles Puigdemont and Toni Comin, who having taken office enjoy due parliamentary immunity in all countries of the European Union except in Spain, where their immunity is not fully guaranteed by the appropriate State authorities, as it should.

Moreover, other elected members of the Spanish Parliament (Jordi Sanchez, Josep Rull and Jordi Turull at the Congreso de los Diputados and Raul Romeva for the Senate), had their seats taken away due to a highly controversial sentence by the Spanish Supreme Court that has been strongly questioned by several international legal and human rights organisations.

Political and public participation rights play a crucial role in the promotion of democratic governance. Therefore, obstacles to the exercise of these fundamental rights challenge the core principles upheld by the Council of Europe.

We welcome the announced dialogue between the new Spanish Government and the Catalan one. We consider that is through dialogue and not repression that a constructive solution can be built.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thorhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC
AKBULUT Gökay, Germany, UEL
BARDELL Hannah, United Kingdom, NR
BRANDT Michel, Germany, UEL
BUCCARELLA Maurizio, Italy, NR
EIDE Petter, Norway, UEL
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
JALLOW Momodou Malcolm, Sweden, UEL
KALASHNIKOV Sergey, Russian Federation, UEL
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
MANIERO Alvise, Italy, NR
MARILOTTI Gianni, Italy, NR
MÖHRING Cornelia, Germany, UEL
NICOLINI Marco, San Marino, UEL
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC
RASMUSSEN Lars Aslan, Denmark, SOC
SHEPPARD Tommy, United Kingdom, NR
VELASQUEZ Victoria, Denmark, UEL

Total = 22

1. SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group