

## **Resolutions and Declarations Bureau Meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria 13-15 April 2018**

### **6) YES Resolution on the Political Situation in Catalonia**

*Signed by JSC Spain and JSE Spain*

In light of the latest events regarding the political situation in Catalonia, following the statement of the Young European Socialists on September 23rd 2017, and having confirmed that our worst predictions have become a reality, the Young European Socialists, as the organisation that congregates all of the Socialist and Social-democratic youth organisations in Europe, would like to express the following:

- YES believes that the rule of law, freedom of expression and the highest democratic standards must always be ensured in any actions, measures or initiatives pursued by any government.
- YES believes that the respect of the rule of law and the political institutions is an indispensable condition for any political and democratic initiative.
- YES believes that the unilateral path to the independence that the political forces in power in Catalonia have taken, which crystallized into the Unilateral Declaration of Independence of October 27th 2017, with disrespect to the rights of the opposition and violating the current legal framework and the Spanish Constitution, is not going to lead to any solution for the real problems that the Catalans have.
- YES believes that Spain is a complete democracy in which the highest democratic standards are fully met. There are no political prisoners in Spain: the people in a trial are politicians and public officials who abused their position and used public money to violate the existing laws in order to accomplish their mission of declaring the independence of Catalonia.
- YES shares the views of JSC, PSC, JSE and PSOE about the necessity of respecting and defending the independence of the judicial branch. In a democracy, it is mandatory that all citizens, organisations and institutions respect the decisions of the judiciary whether they like, share or agree with them or not.
- YES shares and supports the denounce by JSC and JSE of the constant violations of the law made by the pro-independence parties, ignoring the will of more than half of the population of Catalonia that voted for non-independentist parties in the last elections (52% of the total votes).
- YES shares and supports the denounce by JSC and JSE of the attitude of the conservative government of the Partido Popular in Spain that has been unable to provide any single solution to this political problem.
- YES believes that the approach taken by the government of Rajoy is defective and counterproductive since his extreme delegation into the judiciary is only contributing to more and growing tension to the political life in Catalonia.

- YES believes that any form of verbal or physical violence and bullying has no space in today's political life, and shows its support to all the comrades, local representatives and their families, that have been harassed in the past weeks in regards to their views on this matter.
- YES believes that the constant harassment, both the physical attacks at the political headquarters of the socialists all over Catalonia and even in other regions such as País Valencià, as well as the personal harassment in high schools and businesses of activists and their families, are unacceptable and must be condemned.
- YES believes that a political problem such as that of the relation between Catalonia and the rest of Spain, but also the broken coexistence among Catalans who share different ideas, must be addressed from the political perspective and by ensuring that the voices of all actors are heard, respected and taken into consideration.
- YES believes that only a true, honest and sincere effort of dialogue, as the Catalan and Spanish socialists propose, will provide a successful response to this issue. Re-building bridges between Catalonia and the rest of Spain, reducing tensions and eventually reaching an agreement for a constitutional reform that respects all the political sensibilities and that is voted by all the citizens is the wisest procedure to provide a solution to this matter, and the only political actors capable of doing this are the Catalan and Spanish socialists and their proposal.

The Young European Socialists join and support the call made by the Joventut Socialista de Catalunya and the Juventudes Socialistas de España, for a process of dialogue, negotiation and agreement that can end up with a Constitutional reform in order to find a better fit of Catalonia within Spain, transforming Spain into a fully recognized Federal State.

The Young European Socialists will continue to coordinate its political positions regarding this matter with its member organisations, Joventut Socialista de Catalunya (JSC-Spain) and Juventudes Socialistas de España (JSE-Spain), as well as those views expressed by the Partit dels Socialistes de Catalunya (PSC), the Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE), the Party of the European Socialists (PES) and the S&D Group.