



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LIBERAL YOUTH

Updating the Resolution 5: Resolution on Catalan self-determination, submitted by JNC and approved by the IFLRY General Assembly of Kraków, Poland, 25th – 28th April 2016

Resolution: Reaffirming the right to decide of the Catalan people and Catalonia's self determination

Presented by Joventut Nacionalista de Catalunya (JNC) –Víctor Solé– and Jonge Democraten – Laura Neijenhuis–

Considering:

- That legitimacy of democratic systems and of political institutions is based on political participation;
- That after 40 years trying to fit Catalonia into Spain in a politically comfortable way, there is a common feeling among most Catalan citizens that Spain is being re-centralized, in a dangerous involution of democratic rights, that multiculturalism is being jeopardised and rejected by the Spanish State, and that the hope of a tolerant and inclusive country, which many hoped would be built after Franco's regime, seems to fade away and to be practically unreachable;
- That, in this scenario, to preserve its identity, language, culture, economy, and political self-government, today public opinion in Catalonia favours the celebration of a binding referendum in order for Catalan society to be able to choose its own future freely, peacefully and democratically;

Acknowledging:

- That the Catalan movement for self-determination is a peaceful, broad, grassroots social movement made of civil society stakeholders. That five huge demonstrations have taken place in the past six years in the streets of Barcelona and all over Catalonia. The first, in 2010, attended by over 1 million people; the second, in 2012, by 1.5 million, making it one of the largest ever to take place in Europe. The third, a human chain crossing Catalonia in September 2013. The fourth was a double demonstration in two of the main avenues of Barcelona. The fifth was a big demonstration in another Barcelona artery, with over 1.5 million people again. The sixth was a series of demonstrations scattered all over the Catalan nation, again with a turnout of more than 1 million. These protests have changed the political landscape in Catalonia and will keep changing it in the upcoming years if there are not solutions;
- That, following Catalan elections in November 2012, in March 2013, a resolution calling on the Catalan Government to negotiate with the Spanish Government in order to hold a referendum was supported by 77% of MPs in the Catalan Parliament;



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- That on November 9th, 2014, the Catalan Government, led by President Artur Mas, organised a non-binding consultation which ended up being boycotted by the Spanish State and the status quo parties; a consultation with a turnout of 42% of the voters (2 million people) voting 98% in favour of independence; a consultation that has carried out political persecution towards President Mas and three of his ministers;
- That on September 27th, 2015, new legislative elections took place in Catalonia, and President Carles Puigdemont took over President Mas's leadership in order to finish the job, aiming at organising a binding referendum on September 2017;
- That there are a number of existing legal bases which would allow for a referendum to be held on the political future of Catalonia. The Spanish Government's rejection of a Catalan referendum is based on political rather than legal motives;

The International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) calls for:

- Democratic principles to be preserved within Spain, allowing Catalan citizens to express their democratic will freely in a referendum on Catalonia's political future;
- Recognition that voting in a referendum should stand as best practices in order to resolve territorial political conflicts;
- The Spanish Government to agree with the Catalan Government on the terms for a referendum of independence in Catalonia following the examples of the Quebec referenda of 1980 and 1995 and the Scottish referendum of 2014;
- The Catalan Government to implement the result of the referendum, acknowledging its results;
- The European Union to listen to the Catalan nation and to eventually become a referee in the negotiations of Catalan independence in case this option is the preferred one in the referendum.