



## **Open letter to the National Executive Committee of the French Communist Party**

As members of the association *Assemblea Social de l'Esquerra de Catalunya / Asamblea Social de la Izquierda de Cataluña* (ASEC/ASIC, Social Assembly of Catalonia's Left), we are deeply worried about the stand that the historical reference organization of French Communists seems to have taken regarding the current situation in Spanish Catalonia.

Our association includes men and women from the different sectors of the left: socialists, Communists, anarchists... In spite of these different origins, and even despite the different strategies regarding the means to achieve a just and equalitarian society, we share the unconditional defense of internationalism and of solidarity among the working classes, regardless of origin, race or religion.

It so happens that, during the past few years, those principles have been betrayed by an alleged "Catalan left" that has built an interclass alliance in collusion with broad sectors of the petty bourgeoisie who lack any solidarity with the other Spanish regions (1), while, often, supporting and defending racist positions regarding working-class people who have come to Catalonia from other parts of Spain to live and to make a living here (2).

Considering this legal and historical context, we would like to point out not only that Spain has been, for 40 years, a democratic country that meets the required standards and has one of Europe's most progressive constitutions, but also that the first Spanish constitution (1812), popularly known as "La Pepa", was the world's third after the US and French (1791) constitutions.

So, to sum up, since that already historical date, the struggle of Spaniards, including that of Catalans, for freedom and equal rights and opportunities has been constant and sustained: frequently not only against the internal, domestic reaction but also against the foreign one. Suffice it to mention the intervention of the absolutist army commanded by the duke of Angulema in 1823 (known in Spain as "The 100,000 sons of Saint Louis") or the massive aid of the Nazis and fascists to Francisco Franco during the Spanish civil war (1936-39).

Therefore, how can we view, what can we conclude about the separatist putsch that took place in Catalonia last year, keeping in mind, also, that this Autonomous Community (region) does not meet any of the criteria and conditions established by the Charter of the United Nations on the right to self-determination? (3). By analogy, what would be the reaction of the French government, or even that of the PCF, to an independence declaration by a regional council (Corsica's, for instance), or just the call for a referendum with the aim of achieving the break-up of national unity? Let's remember that, in spite of the current Catalan electoral system which is not proportional and gives more weight to votes from rural areas where nationalism is deeply rooted, and even though separatism has obtained more than half of the seats in the Catalan Parliament, the number of separatist votes has never been more than 50%. Besides, in the last elections, the party that got the highest number of votes was Ciutadans / Ciudadanos, a center-right party that defends the Spanish constitution and is opposed to separatism.

As all of you know well, the leaders of the attempted coup d'état (and, in our opinion, only those words are adequate to describe what happened in Catalonia last year) fled the country and are still abroad, or are in pre-trial detention in Spain. Among those who fled and remain abroad is the then president of the Generalitat (the Catalan autonomous government) who is, also, the main representative of the Spanish nation in Catalonia, as the Spanish constitution makes clear. Of course, it is not our intention to prejudge the verdict of the current judicial process, but, in any case, we think that in a country like Spain, where there exists a true separation of powers, justice must be done and the defendants must face up to their responsibilities.

Also to be pointed out is the fact that, according to several international organizations, Spain meets the highest indexes of democratic quality, and its regional autonomy level, especially in Catalonia and the Basque Country, is far above the level granted by many federal countries to their regional territorial subdivisions' administrations.

We do not intend to ignore the errors committed by several Spanish governments in handling the Catalan crisis, but, just the same, those errors do not justify the criminal behavior of the group that led the rebellion.

We cannot forget, and we will not forget, the solidarity of the PCF and of the French left in general, during the darkest years of our recent history. We will only mention now the figure of a leader of the PCF, André Marty, a Catalan from Roussillon, who came, along with many other Frenchmen, to defend freedom against fascism in Spain. Likewise, many Spanish republicans gave their lives for France's freedom. In the name of this shared solidarity we are just asking for an analytical effort which would involve getting the adequate and correct information about the real situation of our country. We are open to discussion and to the possibility of providing any additional information that you may require. In return, our dear partners and friends, we hope to have your understanding in the struggle that we and other democrats, organized or not, are waging to preserve Spain's national unity.

With our fraternal greetings,

Barcelona, November 28, 2018.

1.- Ángel de la Fuente, *Balanzas fiscales : una breve introducción*

<https://www.uv.es/gadopas/de.la.fuente.balanzas.fiscales.pdf>

2.- Daniel Gascón, *El discurso xenófobo del nuevo presidente de Cataluña.*

<https://www.nytimes.com/es/2018/05/15/opinion-gascon-cataluna-torra-proces/>

3.- Salvador López Arnal & Miguel Candel, *Derechos Torcidos.* <http://www.rebelion.org/noticia.php?id=216933>



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