El president
de la Generalitat de Catalunya

Dr. Gianni Buquicchio
President
Venice Commission
Secretariat of the Venice Commission
Council of Europe
Avenue de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France

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Dear Doctor Buquicchio,

On 18 May, the plenary of the Catalan Parliament adopted a resolution (attached hereto) that reiterates the determination of the Government of Catalonia to hold a referendum, agreed with the Spanish Government, on the political future of Catalonia. The resolution also calls for the start of the necessary procedures to secure, in the event of an agreed referendum, the collaboration of the Venice Commission.

The track record and expertise of the Venice Commission in strengthening democratic institutions and protecting human rights are without doubt a guarantee when it comes to approaching such processes. Europe has been built on the basis of dialogue, and it is upon this solid foundation that we should confront and resolve the challenges facing us today.

I would also like to inform you that the Executive Council of the Government of Catalonia, at its meeting on Tuesday 23 May, reached an agreement to formally request that the Spanish Government begin negotiations to establish the terms and conditions for organising a referendum, agreed between both parties, to determine public opinion with regard to the political future of Catalonia. The day after this agreement was reached, Wednesday 24 May, I personally sent a letter to the Spanish Prime Minister to inform him of the agreement and place myself at his disposal to negotiate the terms of the referendum.

Unfortunately, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has turned down our offer for dialogue. Nevertheless, the Government of Catalonia is willing to keep the door open to negotiate an agreed referendum.

I trust that this information, given its political importance, will be of interest to the Venice Commission. In this respect, I am at your disposal for any further clarification you might require on this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó