



Brussels, 2 October 2020

Dear President Sánchez,

As Co-presidents of the The Greens / European Free Alliance in the European Parliament, we had news of the recent suspension of the third grade for the Catalan independence leaders convicted of the crime of sedition.

We understand that the General Penitentiary Law in Spain of 1979 grants the ability to concede prison permits to those sentenced to prison to a technical committee made up of experts, doctors and psychologists, under the responsibility of a prison surveillance judge. Following the decision of both this committee and the Prison Supervisory Judge to give green light to the third grade, we are surprised and concerned by the Supreme Court's decision to have it ultimately overturned.

With this letter, we would like to convey our concern about the impact of this judicial decision, both for the human consequences that it will have for some of the concerned and for the difficulties that this may generate in building a necessary climate of trust so that the political dialogue on the Catalan conflict can yield results.

The phase that began with the new progressive majority was very welcomed by this parliamentary group, among other things given the horizon of dialogue that was opening up to resolve the political conflict in Catalonia. In addition to the so-called "dialogue table", which we support and which we hope will soon begin to draw solutions, we believe it is also necessary to advance with a political solution which can allow imprisoned leaders to recover their freedom. We are all aware that the resolution of this issue is a necessary condition to begin to build the necessary climate of trust. That is the reason why we would like to welcome the recent announcement made by the Spanish Minister for Justice to start the proceedings for the request of indulgences that have been submitted to the government, and the immediate revision of the definition of the crime of sedition in the Spanish Penal Code.

Mr. President, through this letter we would like to ask you to accelerate as soon as possible those options available to develop a political solution that will allow the imprisoned leaders to regain their freedom, a measure that has become even more urgent after the judicial decision to suspend their third grade status. A suspension that, in the midst of the pandemic that we are experiencing, has made the personal and family situation of those in prison even more difficult. Let us also remind you of the recent recommendation by the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations, Michel Bachelet, on the need to guarantee the health protection of imprisoned persons by means of their release when possible.

We know of your personal commitment, and that of your government, to dialogue and to the search for a political solution for Catalonia, after the dark years of the conservative government of President Rajoy. For this reason, we hope that decisions can be taken soon underpinning the beginning of this new phase led by political dialogue and freedom.

Sincerely yours,



Ska Keller



Philippe Lamberts

Co-Presidents of the Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament