

Official statement by Círculo de Empresarios

OUR WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT FOR THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND ITS INSTITUTIONS

Círculo de Empresarios would like to express its wholehearted support for the decision taken by the Spanish government to re-establish constitutional legality in the autonomous region of Catalonia. By holding democratic regional elections on 21st December, a situation of normality will be reinstated. The Círculo de Empresarios is pleased to see that in difficult times such as these, political powers are capable of achieving consensus. This was shown through the wide-ranging parliamentary support for the measures passed in the National Senate.

Severe social and economic damage has been caused; and it will take a good deal of time to heal the wounds caused by political leaders (now removed from office) who have shown little respect for democracy or citizens' freedom. It is essential that an end is put to the independence process – a process that has undermined the economy and prestige of both Catalonia and Spain as a whole, as well as causing untold damage to social cohesion.

Many well-intentioned Catalans who put their faith in a form of utopia have seen direct evidence of the falsehoods propagated by political leaders. Catalans were assured that companies and businesses would remain, that an increased level of public services would be provided in a more united society, and that they would be warmly welcomed by the European Union. For those Catalans who were falsely led to believe in this, it's now time to reconsider their position.

Círculo de Empresarios would like to call on all Catalans to participate on a massive scale in the upcoming elections, demonstrating that responsibility and “seny” (common sense) are the predominant characteristics of this great people – a people who have contributed so positively to the unprecedented and collective success of Spain over the past 40 years.

We trust that democracy and the rule of law will ensure that responsible politicians attain positions of power in the region; and that those who ignore the rule of law will be held legally accountable for their actions.

We would also like to call on the rest of the Spanish people to make a distinction between democratic compatriots (who form the majority of Catalans) and those who have attempted to lead Catalonia off a cliff edge. We would also like to add that rather than resorting to any form of boycott of Catalan products (products which are Spanish, after all), we firmly believe the right thing to do in these most trying times is to show warmth and affection for this much-loved and inseparable part of Spain.

Madrid, 29th October 2017