

Press Release, 04/04/2011

Barcelona votes on Catalan Independence

April 10th Barcelona

Barcelona Decideix (www.barcelonadecideix.cat/internacional) is a citizen's initiative which organises a referendum in the city of Barcelona on Catalonia's independence from Spain, which will be held on April 10th, 2010. It is a democratic gesture of participation in a poll called, organized and financed by Catalan citizens. This referendum will close a series of referendums that started in September 2009 in Arenys de Munt.

So far, the results to the question *"Do you agree that Catalonia should become a sovereign democratic country, member of the European Union?"* have been consistently in favour of the Catalan independence from Spain, with over 90% support.

These polls have already been held in 532 towns in Catalonia. All residents are allowed to vote, including immigrants and young people age 16 and older. Turnouts have been successful all over, topping high participation in smaller villages and more moderate numbers in larger towns. More than 600,000 citizens have voted so far.

Now it is Barcelona's turn. Its 1'5 million inhabitants will complete a process that is considered to be the first step towards a large-scale referendum to be officially organized by the Catalan Parliament. Due to the fact that Spain does not allow the Catalan government or the various city councils to call for an official vote on self-determination, grassroots movements have been organizing these referenda, in full compliance with legal requirements. Most Catalan parties are supporting this initiative, among them the moderate Catalan nationalist party *'Convergència i Unió'*, now heading the Catalan government.



MP's and members of Barcelona Decideix in the Catalan Parliament

This civic movement has succeeded on placing Catalonia's Independence debate in the very centre of the political stage. Thus, on March 10th, 2011, the Catalan Parliament approved, by a large majority (85 against 47), a motion reaffirming Catalonia's undeniable right to self-determination and giving support to the referendum on Catalonia's independence organized by civic platforms such as 'Barcelona Decideix' in Barcelona.



10A Barcelona
Decideix
10 ABRIL 2011 CONSULTA SOBRE LA INDEPENDÈNCIA

In Barcelona, advanced balloting has already started; a first round in 'La Barceloneta', a traditionally low turnout blue-collar district, had 20% participation. A second round was held in the district of 'Gràcia', with a turnout of 33.6%. Vote canvassing is proceeding and thousands of votes have already been accounted.



Former Catalan President Jordi Pujol, from *Convergència i Unió*, who was in office for 23 years (1980-2003) voted YES in the referendum last week, and so did President Artur Mas, from the same party, who is now

the head of the Catalan Government. President Pujol voted in front of a trustee and President Mas in an anticipated balloting polling station.

A group of high-profile actors and presenters from the world of Catalan television have launched a spot, which was inspired by the ["Don't vote"](#) video used in the 2008 campaign for Barack Obama. The video "Don't vote", has been a great boost to the Barcelona Decideix campaign, as it has created great interest in the event on the 10th of April across internet. In less than a week since its release, it already has more than 80,000 views. A version with English subtitles is available at <http://vimeo.com/21478952>

More than 100 international observers have witnessed this process so far, in the different waves organized during 2010, providing testimony of 'good democratic practices'. Around 40, from different nationalities, will be in Barcelona to monitor the referendum on April 10th. They come both from Independent countries (Denmark, Finland, Germany, England, Uganda) and Stateless Nations (Scotland, Flanders, Basque Country, Corsica, South Tirol, Jura, Sardinia, Puerto Rico)

The program of activities is the following:

Friday, April 8th 19:30 Final Event in The Cupola of Les Arenes (former Plaza de Toros) with parliaments of International Observers and members of the organization and a concert

Saturday, April 9th 11:00 International Observers Press Conference (Hotel Juan Carlos I)
18:00 Visit of the International Observers to the City Hall

Sunday, April 10th 9:00/20:00 Referendum in 330 polling stations. Electoral Centre at UGT (Ramblas 10)

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions:

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