



STATEMENT FROM EMPRESARIS DE CATALUNYA

INTRODUCTION/OBJECTIVES

Empresaris de Catalunya (EC) has been created **to give voice to business people, entrepreneurs and professionals who wish to sound an alarm** in respect of the negative consequences arising from the Catalan “independence process” on the economic activity of Catalonia and, consequently, on each and every Catalan.

As opposed to the “happy world” which is promised to us by the “pro-independence official establishment”, in EC we have **a grave concern** about the **real repercussions** of the secessionist process on the development of the business activity, the growth of the Catalan economy and the progress and welfare of all Catalan people.

EC considers that the secessionist view **is not representative** of what all Catalan business people and professionals think. Being a part of Spain and of the European Union has been and is, now more than ever, essential and positive for the growth of our economy and the progress of Catalan people.

Faced with the attempt from the institutions which represent the state in Catalonia to silence any dissenting and plural opinions, we see the need for an **association that freely expresses its concerns** on the real damage that could be brought by a hypothetical secession of Catalonia from the rest of Spain.

In this regard, in **EC** we want to give public voice to business people and professionals who ask that **careful and serious thought be given to specific questions** raised by the independence issue as regards the economy:

THOUGHTS ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF INDEPENDENCE

If secession of Catalonia takes place:

- Would restricted border controls, custom checks and the application of export/import duties with other European Union countries return again?
- How many clients and consumers of our products and services in the Spanish market would be lost? What part of this Spanish market would be finally lost? And of the European Union market?
- How many European Union countries would use their veto to the admission of Catalonia as a new member state?
- From where would necessary resources be obtained to finance the structures of the new state, its companies and citizens? By how much would taxes increase?
- How much would the structures of the new state cost?
- With how much initial public debt would the newly independent state start?
- What would its currency and its exchange rate with the Euro be? Would we maintain our system based on a currency over which we have no influence at all?
- Who would invest here? How many companies would choose to relocate away from the new state?
- Who would ensure payment of pensions and unemployment and disability benefits as from secession? And with what funds?
- Would social security contributions increase or decrease?
- ...

We face many other questions from a possible secession. **We, the business people and professionals in EC, give one clear answer to all these questions: we are NOT willing to assume the cost and damage which would result from the secession of Catalonia from the rest of Spain on each and every Catalan.**