



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Oriol JUNQUERAS VIES

Diputat al Parlament Europeu

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

As you may already know, today **Spanish economy represents a danger to European economy and euro stability**. Spain carries a national debt of over one billion euros and the measures taken by the Spanish government -only after pressure from the EU and the US- do not seem to resolve the situation on a short-term basis.

The so-called "Spanish economic miracle" of the last 25 years would not have been possible without the European cohesion funds (approximately 6,000 M€ per year on average) and the **fiscal deficit of Catalonia (approximately 12,000 M€ per year)**. As a whole, it is equivalent to 3% of the Spain's annual GDP during this period. Despite this amount of income during a so long period of time, **Spain has not created a basis for a productive economy**. A good example of this bad public management of economy is the **incomprehensible infrastructure planning**. Specifically, with regard to railway, the Spanish government has given priority to the largest high-speed rail network in Europe -even larger than the one in Germany, despite being absolutely loss-making- ahead of the necessary railway connection through the Mediterranean arc, a significant work for the whole Europe.

The economic management is clearly inadequate and has placed **Spain at the bottom of the pile in Europe regarding unemployment** (rate already exceeds 20% of active population). Meanwhile, the production model remains at a standstill and no one considers changing it.

A rationalization of the Spanish economy becomes more necessary than ever. This includes, without doubt, **reducing fiscal pressure to Catalan citizens**. Catalonia is one of the most potential European regions, although Spain deducts annually 10% of GDP. As you know, by decision of the Constitutional Court, in Germany transfers between regions are limited to 4.5% of regional GDP.

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The economic model of Catalonia has a strong industrial base and a prospective productive structure based on new technologies and research. Catalan efficiency is clearly above the Spanish average and is placed at the European level. Macroeconomic data is an example of this: in full context of crisis exports have grown nearly 18%; the EU has recognized it as the most enterprising economic area of the Union with the Regional Award; moreover, it is ranked in the fourth place of the citation index in scientific journals worldwide. With regard to trade and tourism, the port of Barcelona is the goods gateway of southern Europe with a trading volume of almost 44 million tons and 3.5 million passengers in 2010. The airport, although still not a hub, has almost 30 million passengers annually. In addition, Catalonia has won several European quality tourism certificates.

Despite these good numbers, Catalan economy is subject to the Spanish inefficiency, since Spain, unlike Germany, does not recognize the financial autonomy of its regions. It should be understood that, **in addition to harming Catalonia, it is an affront to Europe** as the fiscal strangling or the lack of support for the Mediterranean railway corridor, which would connect the logistic hubs from Oslo to Algeciras, **threatens the current and future economic dynamism from a European driving region.**

We ask you, as MEPs, to be alert to Spain's economic and strategic movements and, in this sense, to support the construction of the Mediterranean railway corridor and all decisions taken by economic criteria and not just by political opinions. Likewise, we request you to help us to put pressure on Spain to finish with the fiscal deficit affecting Catalonia for the good of the European economy.



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It is necessary to bring this situation in Spain to a close, as the economic strangling of Catalonia means, without any doubt, the economic strangling of Europe. Not reacting in front of this situation would jeopardize the economic development of a European region with great growth potential.

Sincerely,

Oriol Junqueras i Vies
MEP Greens-EFA Group