

Dear colleagues,

You are probably aware of the events that are happening in Catalonia since last September. The call for an independence referendum by the autonomous government and the response given to it by the Spanish government are having very serious personal consequences for two former Members of this house: Oriol Junqueras and Raül Romeva. Both are former MEPs of the Greens-EFA group and in the case of Raül, Member of the Former Members Association.

They, together with other members of the Catalan government, have been accused of the crimes of rebellion and embezzlement of public funds for convening and executing the referendum for independence on October 1<sup>st</sup>; a mandate from their constituents. At this time, Oriol and Raül are in preventive detention awaiting trial, as well as other members of the government and two leaders of social movements. Some members of the government, with President Carles Puigdemont at the head, have taken the path of exile.

Regardless of the political assessment one can make of the Catalan process, it seems obvious that the imputed charges and precautionary measures taken against the members of the Catalan government are disproportionate. Remember that the court of the German land of Schleswig-Holstein has recently stated in denying the petition of extradition to Spain for the crime of rebellion of President Carles Puigdemont.

We believe that this Association, which aims to represent the former Members of this house, can not be left out of the case of Oriol Junqueras and Raül Romeva. We ask the FMA to take interest in the situation of Oriol and Raül, to make Spanish government aware of the concern of the FMA because of their imprisonment and to demand the release of both until the trial is carried out and a judgment is issued.

We hope, their colleagues, you'll support our demands,

Nelly Maes  
Jens-Peter Bonde (Dk)  
Marije Cornelissen (NI)  
Catherine Grèze (Fr)  
Max Simeoni  
Camilo Nogueira  
Nikos Chrysorgelos (EI)  
Satu Hassi (FI)  
Monica Frassoni (It)  
Iñaki Irazabalbeita  
Ernest Maragall  
Jordi Sebastià