

DECLARATION OF THE PARTY OF CATALAN SOCIALISTS - PSC IN LIGHT OF THE DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT, 14.10.2019

Today we have known the ruling of the Supreme Court on the main leaders of the pro-independence process.

This court decision must be complied with and is, like every court decision, subject to individual opinion.

We live under the rule of law and in a state with separation of powers, and the action of the judiciary is developed within the respect of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.

As the Association of Judges for Democracy has remarked: "the trial has been conducted under conditions of maximum transparency and guaranteeing the rights of all parties. In this regard, a wide range of tests have been carried out that have been subjected to the contradiction of the parties involved and have been evaluated in the verdict by a court whose independence, impartiality and technical level are not questionable."

The Supreme Court dismissed the petition of the State's General Prosecutor who urged for a conviction on charges of rebellion, and has finally been inclined to convicting nine of the twelve people under trial on charges of sedition.

The convicted persons have the right to appeal to the Constitutional Court and to the European Court of Human Rights, in clear demonstration of the guarantees of our legal system.

Freedom of expression and the rights of as-

sembly and manifestation shelter the public expression of favourable or contrary opinions to this ruling. These rights and freedoms must take place with the civility, tolerance and respect that must characterize the Catalan society.

With due regard to the separation of powers, we reject any kind of institutional disobedience and any attempt to confront the legitimacy of judicial decisions with the decisions of any instance of political power. The representative institutions must represent us all, and therefore, the different opinions that coexist in our society.

The trial and ruling that we have come to know today are the result of the mistake of overriding the law made by the independentist leaders, and constitute a failure of politics.

It is time to open a new phase guided by the respect for the legality and the institutions and with a strong will towards dialogue. Dialogue that can fully gather the Catalan society and help closing the profound wounds caused by the independence process and its consequences.

The Party of Catalan Socialists-PSC, a strong advocate for the dialogue within the law, calls on serenity and respecting the opinions of all. Moreover, it will devote all efforts to overcome these difficult times and finding paths of mutual understanding among Catalans and among the whole of the Spanish citizens. That is why we will work in favour of coexistence within the Catalan society, and to return to politics in order to find solutions to a problem that is eminently political.