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# Do you enjoy watching Barça?

Futbol Club Barcelona is the no. 1 sporting organisation in **Catalonia** and has become one its leading ambassador around the world. **Catalan identity** and a **commitment to society** and to **democracy** are at Barça's very core. The club fiercely stands up for its roots but is also inclusive, with - as its anthem says - a "flag that brings together" fans on all five continents.

## Barça, "more than a club" for Catalonia.

Futbol Club Barcelona has always shown its commitment to its country, Catalonia. **It stood up for Catalan language and culture, as well as democracy, when they were persecuted under dictatorial Spanish governments in the 20th century, and even suffered reprisals from the totalitarian authorities.**



## 80% of Catalans want to be able to vote to decide on their own future.

Today over 80% of Catalans want to use their democratic and civil rights and vote on self-determination. On 11th September 2012 (Catalan national day), **1.5 million people demonstrated behind the demand for independence. A year later, 2 million people formed a 400-kilometre human chain** (the so-called *Catalan Way*) stretching across the country from north to south.



Nearly 2/3 of the Catalan parliament has voted to hold a referendum

**on 9th November 2014,**

300 years after Catalonia lost its sovereignty following defeat in the War of the Spanish Succession **in 1714. This is why, at minute 17:14 during matches played at the Camp Nou stadium, the enthusiastic home crowd commemorates the date with a collective chant:**

**“IN-INDE-INDEPENDÈNCIA”.**

In this self-determination referendum, the Catalans will be voting on these questions:

- 1** *Do you want Catalonia to become a state?*
- 2** *If so, do you want this state to be independent?*

Democracy and the right to self-determination for peoples are basic, general principles of international law. But unlike the UK stance on Scotland, the Spanish Government rejects out of hand the right to hold a referendum. It uses the Spanish constitution as an excuse. Democracy versus Constitution? This is simply a political obstacle.

## **Now is the time: Catalonia, a new European state**

After centuries of trying hard to get on with Spain, self-rule is the only way to gain full recognition of the Catalan language and culture, to regain dignity as a nation and put an end to constant tax discrimination.

**In the last 100 years more than 100 states all over the world have become independent, as have 22 former Spanish colonies since 1800.** Just like Gandhi, Luther King and Mandela brought to pass in their **peaceful struggles against injustice, all Catalonia wants (like any other nation) is to achieve freedom democratically.**



**#WeWantToVote**

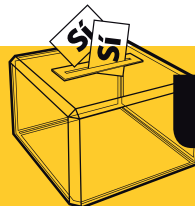
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