



Dr. David Carroll

Director, Democracy Program

Carter Center, Atlanta GA, USA

Alfons López Tena

Presidential Candidate,

Solidaritat Catalana per la Independència

Barcelona, Catalonia, October 23rd, 2012

Dear Dr. Carroll,

I wrote to you in 2009 regarding the “public consultation” held in Catalonia in December, 13, 2009. Now, on the occasion of the forthcoming Catalan parliamentary elections on November 25, I contact you to express my concern about the many complaints we have received from Catalan citizens living abroad that face obstacles to exercise their right to vote.

Spanish embassies must ensure and promote the defense of democratic values and the proper exercise of the right to vote for citizens living in other countries. However, we have dealt with more than a hundred different complaints at this regard. There are two main types of complaints. On one hand, many Catalan citizens denounce they find obstacles to register at the Embassy as voters and exercise their right to vote. On the other hand, many others complaint because, although they are registered as voters, they cannot exercise their right on time, due to delays in the reception of the necessary official documentation. Both are examples of violation of the fundamental right to vote.

Next Catalan parliamentary elections are a crucial democratic process after the massive 1,5 million independence march on last September, 11. This march represents Catalonia’s ambition to hold a legal independence referendum, a process that faces the opposition of Spanish Government.

For this reason, herewith we ask you to observe next Catalan parliamentary elections to help us ensuring a clear democratic process, where all Catalans may exercise their right to vote, regardless of their place of residence.

We would also appreciate if we could meet some representative of your organization in Europe in order to further discuss these and other important issues.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Sincerely,

Alfons López Tena

Presidential Candidate,

Solidaritat Catalana per la Independència