

RIGHT OF REPLY SPANISH DELEGATION TO WRITTEN STATEMENT  
SUBMITTED BY CATALAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WORKING SESSION 11,  
RULE OF LAW II, INCLUDING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
FIGHTING TERRORISM

Spain avails itself of the right of reply to the written statement submitted by Catalan national assembly in working session 11 where his representative cast doubts about the freedom of speech and opinion and the independence of the judiciary in Spain.

Regarding the respect and promotion of freedom of speech and opinion, let me stress that civil rights are guaranteed by the actual Constitution which states in its first article that "Spain is constituted in a social and democratic law, which, as superior values of its legal code, supports freedom, justice, equality and political pluralism". Freedom of expression is a fundamental right included in Title I of the Constitution. This means that, as has occurred, in Spain one can freely defend independence of an autonomous region in any media, autonomous parliaments and political platforms, organise demonstrations and discuss the model of state in parliament. Moreover, no international authority questions the separation of powers or lack of legal safeguards in Spain. On the contrary, I would like to invite the speaker to refer, inter alia, to the recent "2018 Democracy Index" and Freedom House index. They both represent Spain with indicators of a strong, vibrant, diverse, resilient and full-fledged democracy, as a matter of fact, one of the 20 "FULL DEMOCRACIES" on the planet. I invite delegates and civil society to know more about Spain, the real Spain in [www.thisistherealspain.com](http://www.thisistherealspain.com)

Regarding the reference of lack of independence of the judiciary in Spain, no international body questions the separation of powers or the impartiality of judges in Spain. In its latest report by GRECO of Council of Europe (December 2017) expressly states "Greco wishes to underline, as it already did in the Fourth Evaluation Round Report, that there is no doubt as to the high quality of the judiciary and the prosecutorial service in Spain, as well as to the strong spirit of public service and dedication of individual judges and prosecutors".