

Brussels, 17th June 2019

Dear Bureau Members of the European Parliament,

Newly elected MEPs Carles Puigdemont, Antoni Comín and Oriol Junqueras, have been prevented from taking office as Members of the European Parliament by the Spanish authorities after the European election on 26th of May. The list led by Carles Puigdemont and Antoni Comín received 1.025.411 votes, and the list led by Oriol Junqueras received 1.257.484 votes.

On 14th of June 2019, elected MEP Oriol Junqueras –in pre-trial detention for 593 days for having organized the Catalan self-determination referendum in 2017– has been banned by the Spanish Supreme Court to leave the prison in order to take the MEP credential. Furthermore, on the 13th of June 2019, the Spanish Electoral Board imposed elected MEPs Carles Puigdemont and Antoni Comín –in exile since October 2017– to be personally in Madrid in order to take their seats as MEPs.

The decisions taken by the Spanish authorities banning newly elected MEPs from taking office and attending to the European Parliament's constitutive plenary session on the 2nd July 2019 are a clear violation of their political rights and a disregard of more than 2 million European citizens that voted for them.

These acts of the Spanish authorities attempt against the political rights of the MEP-elected Carles Puigdemont, Oriol Junqueras, Antoni Comín and more than 2 million European citizens that voted for them. An unacceptable breach of the Rules of Procedures of the European Parliament, the consolidated Treaties of the EU, the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

It is clear that the intention of these decisions are to prevent the concerned MEPs to be granted all the rights and freedoms as European representatives and, at the same time, to avoid any debate in the European Parliament that might put into question the judicial trial against the Catalan political and social leaders.

For all the above-mentioned reasons, we urge you:

- to recognise and protect the political rights of Carles Puigdemont, Oriol Junqueras and Antoni Comín and those of the 2.2 million people that voted for them;

- to call on the Spanish Electoral and Judiciary Authorities to respect the results of the European Elections and recognise and respect the right of the aforementioned elected MEPs to immunity and to hold office.

Yours sincerely,

1. MEP Aileen McLeod
2. MEP Alyn Smith
3. MEP Ana Miranda
4. MEP Anneleen Van Bossuyt
5. MEP Anneli Jäätteenmäki
6. MEP Barbara Spinelli
7. MEP Christian Allard
8. MEP Damien Carême
9. MEP Daniel Freund
10. MEP Dennis de Jong
11. MEP Diana Riba
12. MEP Enrico Gasbarra
13. MEP Gesine Meißner
14. MEP Helga Stevens
15. MEP Ian Hudghton
16. MEP Iveta Grigule-P terse
17. MEP Ivo Vajgl
18. MEP Izaskun Bilbao
19. MEP Jill Evans
20. MEP Jordi Solé
21. MEP José Bové
22. MEP Josep-Maria Terricabras
23. MEP Karima Delli
24. MEP Liadh Ní Riada
25. MEP Luke Ming Flanagan
26. MEP Lynn Boylan
27. MEP María Dolores Sánchez Caldentey
28. MEP Mario Borghezio
29. MEP Mark Demesmaecker

30. MEP Martina Anderson
31. MEP Matt Carthy
32. MEP Miroslavs Mitrofanovs
33. MEP Molly Scott Cato
34. MEP Fernando Barrena
35. MEP Petra de Sutter
36. MEP Ramon Tremosa
37. MEP Rasmus Andresen
38. MEP Tatjana Zdanoka
39. MEP Yana Toom
40. MEP Michèle Rivasi