



Mdm. Liliane Maury Pasquier,
President of the Parliamentary Assembly
of the Council of Europe,
STRASBOURG

Reykjavík 21st October 2019

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Dear Mdm. President.

I write you this letter to raise my concern about the situation in Catalonia following the verdict of the Spanish Supreme Court, sentencing nine Catalan politicians to jail; including Mdm. Carme Forcadell, former President of the Parliament of Catalonia.

The lengthy detention of Mdm. Forcadell in the period pending trial was of great concern to me, not least bearing in mind Article 5 of The European Convention of Human Rights stipulating that arrested or detained "shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release pending trial." The recent verdict of the Spanish Supreme Court of 11 and a half years imprisonment of the former President of the Parliament of Catalonia is also a reason for concern.

I am of course aware that Catalonia is not a member of the Council of Europe and its Assembly, but currently an integral part of the member state Spain. Nevertheless, I want to express my worries and underline my position that the fundamental values of the Council of Europe of democracy, human rights and the rule of law should be observed and adhered to by all its member states.

Given previous debates in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the state of its fundamental values in member states, I encourage you to consider whether the Catalan situation deserves further attention of the Assembly.

It is my hope that the situation in Catalonia can be resolved by political, democratic and peaceful means and I wish you, dear Mdm. President, continued success in your important work.

Steingrímur J. Sigfússon
Speaker of Alþingi, Parliament of Iceland