



PARLAMENT DE CATALUNYA

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A LA MESA DEL PARLAMENT

Marta Rovira i Vergés, spokesperson for the Parliamentary Group Junts pel Sí (Together for Yes), Carlos Carrizosa Torres, spokesperson for the Parliamentary Group of Ciudadanos (Citizens), Eva Granadas Galiano, spokesperson for the Socialist Parliamentary Group, Joan Coscubiela Conesa, spokesperson for the Parliamentary Group Catalunya Sí que es Pot (Catalonia Yes we Can), Josep Enrix Millo y Rocher, spokesperson for the Parliamentary Group of the Partido Popular de Catalunya (Popular Party of Catalonia), Anna Gabriel y Sabaté, spokesperson for the Parliamentary Group of the Candidatura d'Unitat Popular - Crida Constituent (Popular Unity Candidacy), as stated in Articles 164 and 165 of the Parliamentary Regulations, present a **Draft Resolution regarding a legislative framework of respect for human rights on the part of Catalan businesses operating abroad**, so that it be substantiated before the Commission of Foreign Action and Development, Institutional Relations and Transparency, with the following text:

Statement of Purpose

In recent years, the Parliament of Catalonia and the Government of Catalonia, driven by the mobilisations and demands of Catalan civil society, have repeatedly expressed their wish to safeguard Human Rights throughout the world, where Catalan entities are undertaking activities beyond our borders.

On the 19th of December 2013 the Parliament of Catalonia approved a motion urging the Government to create a working group, within the framework of the International Development Council, to develop an awareness plan, directed at Catalan companies working abroad where there are Catalan international development projects, so as to understand the projects taking place, the human rights situation in the recipient country and compliance with international law. This working group has convened regularly since its creation in April 2014, working to pursue these goals.

On the 4th of December 2014, Law 16/2014 of Foreign Action and Relations with the European Union was approved, which promotes the defence of peace, human rights and sustainable human development (Article 4, point f), while guaranteeing that the promotion of Catalan economic internationalisation is consistent with the Guiding Principles of the United Nations in relation to Businesses and Human Rights, safeguarding, at all times, respect for Human Rights in any activity taking place (Article 12 [.2.@e](#)). The same objective of the



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law is also made explicit in other Articles (13, 26.c., 27, 34 y 36), where the need is recognised to undertake policies that promote and value social organisations working on the following areas: sustainable human development, the promotion of peace, the defence of human rights, and social cohesion in the host country.

In line with the development of this Law, the Executive Council of the 26th of May 2015 approved the Strategic Plan of Foreign Action and Relations with the European Union 2015-2018. This Strategic Plan established a framework for the construction of a coherent and cohesive public policy that safeguards the promotion of a culture of peace and the defence of human rights in all policies and interventions in Catalanian activities abroad.

On the 22nd of April 2015, the Parliament also approved the Master plan of International Development 2015-2018, in which the defence, protection and guarantee of human rights- both individual and collective- are central to all actions related to international development.

During the 26th period of sessions, held in June 2014, the Council of Human Rights of the United Nations began a process aimed at tackling the shortcomings and weaknesses of voluntary codes, with the objective of developing a legally binding international instrument relating to businesses and human rights. We understand that Catalonia cannot be a spectator in this debate and that it must take advantage of this opportunity and become a leading country in the respect for peace and the promotion of human rights in the international community.

It is for these reasons, that the Parliamentary Groups signatory to the current document, present the following:

Draft Resolution

The Parliament of Catalonia:

- a) Affirms its commitment to International human rights law, International employment law, international environmental standards, the promotion of peace and the right to sustainable development; and commits to continue working within this legal framework and progress in these respective areas.
- b) Urges the Government of Catalonia to begin, within 8 months, the work required to create and deploy a Centre for the Study and Evaluation of the impacts of Catalanian companies with foreign investments, equipped with the necessary tools to safeguard compliance by businesses with the current Human Rights legislation, in which Catalanian civil society, the Government of Catalonia and the Parliament of Catalonia participate.



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- c) States its support for the creation of a legally binding international instrument that guarantees compliance with the Human Rights obligations of trans-national companies and other businesses, and supports the work of the Council of Human Rights of the United Nations, who has the mandate for the creation of this instrument.

Palace of the Parliament, 25 of July 2016

Marta Rovira i Vergés

Spokesperson PG of JS

Carlos Carrizosa Torres

Spokesperson PG of C's

Eva Granados Galiano

Spokesperson PG of SOC

Joan Coscubiela Conesa

Spokesperson PG of CSP

Josep Enric Millo i Rocher

Spokesperson PG of PPC

Anna Gabriel i Sabaté

Spokesperson PG of CUP-CC