



SHISHUKUNJ MUN

INDORE

2021

Study Guide

Generalitat of Catalonia

Agenda: Catalan Independence Referendum
2017

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Letter from the Bureau

Dear Councillors,

It is our pleasure to welcome you all to this iteration of the Shishukunj MUN. We are incredibly excited to serve as the bureau members of this committee and would ensure that all of you have a memorable MUN experience.

Generalitat of Catalonia is a historic committee based in June 2017. It provides you, as councillors, the opportunity to create a 'nation' and decide its fate while dealing with various challenges. Catalonia has raised demands for independence several times in the region's history. However, now, with the declaration of the independence referendum, the region is one step closer to achieving this aim. It is the task of the Executive Council, along with the Parliament, to hold the referendum successfully and design a framework for independent Catalonia. The councillors will experience several crises in the way, making the road to independence even more challenging.

Through this guide, we aim to provide you with a basic overview of the agenda and brief information about the different aspects. However, the guide should only act as the beginning of your research and not the end. Extensive independent research would not only allow you to understand the complexities of the agenda but also make the MUN an enriching experience. For the committee to have an engaging debate and innovative solutions to the crises provided, it is imperative that all of you are well researched.

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case you have any queries or concerns. We wish you all the very best and look forward to seeing you in the committee.

Regards,
Nihar Shah, Chairperson
Rishav Dey, Vice-Chairperson

Committee Background

The Generalitat of Catalonia is the law-making institution of Catalonia and consists of two bodies: The Executive Council and The Parliament. In the committee, both the bodies have to work coherently and make decisions.

1. The Executive Council

It is the executive branch of the Generalitat and consists of Executive Councillors (ministers who have jurisdiction over a government department). These councillors either belong to the two major parties of Catalonia, namely the Catalan European Democratic Party (PDeCAT), the Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC) or are independent candidates.

The council also contains two Non-Government Councillors (those who hold non-government portfolios outside the council). They belong to the Assemblea Nacional Catalana (ANC) and Omnium Cultural and have been given a seat in the council because of their valuable contributions to the region.

2. The Parliament

It is the legislative branch of the Generalitat and consists of Parliament Councillors. These are the leaders of the three parties of Catalonia (PDeCAT, ERC and CUP). The actual Parliament of Catalonia has 135 members, and most of them belong to the 11 political parties. They decide whether or not a legislation or directive passes.

Mandate

The Executive Council and the Parliament will have the power to execute and implement policy decisions whenever necessary. They can also form new economic, political, and foreign affair policies related to independent Catalonia or the Catalan region.

The Executive Councillors are expected to follow their party's ideology on the majority of the issues but are allowed to deviate from it on some issues. The independent candidates and Non-Government Councillors are free to align themselves with a party's ideology or remain independent. The Parliament Councillors are expected to advance their party's ideologies and try to influence the decisions of the Executive Council.

Key Terms

Referendum - A vote in which all the people in a country or an area are asked to give their opinion about or decide an important political or social question.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - The total value of all final goods and services produced in an economy during a specific time period.

Autonomy - The right of an organisation, country, or region to be independent and govern itself.

Statute - A law that has been formally approved by a nation's legislature and is enacted by the government.

Autocracy - A system of government where one person, who is the ruler, has absolute power.

Recession - A period of temporary economic decline, during which commerce and industrial activity are significantly reduced, resulting in decreased GDP and excess unemployment.

Introduction to the Agenda

Catalonia is one of the seventeen autonomous regions of the Kingdom of Spain, with Barcelona as its capital. It comprises four provinces: Barcelona, Girona, Lleida and Tarragona. The region's unique culture and language separates it from the rest of the country. It has been given autonomous status under the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia, which is second only to the Constitution of Spain. This document acts as one of the primary sources of conflict.

Catalonia was defined as a nation in the 2006 Statute of Autonomy, but the Spanish Constitutional Court, in 2010, declared that the only nation recognised by the Constitution was Spain. This, along with the century-long suppression of the cultural identity of Catalonia and political instability, resulted in the demand for independence. The region has witnessed several shifts in its autonomy throughout history, from complete freedom to being under the direct rule of Spain.

The demand for independence increased after the 2010 constitutional ruling. People started protesting, and political parties wanted a referendum to let people decide, but Spain continuously denied this, increasing the conflict. Finally, in 2017, the Catalan government announced the independence referendum to be held in October 2017.

The committee starts on June 10, 2017, which is a day after the announcement of the independence referendum. The Executive Council and the Parliament have been called for an emergency meeting to prepare for the referendum in October. The Generalitat not only has to plan for the logistics of the referendum but also has to prepare a comprehensive framework for independent Catalonia.

The guide states information up to June 2017, and any information after that time would not be admissible in the committee.

Timeline

1137 - Catalonia and Aragon were integrated into a singular kingdom through marriage of the Count of Barcelona, and Queen Petronila.

1469 - Aragon and Castile were unified through the marriage of Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella of Castile, leading to the formation of the Kingdom of Spain.

1640 to 1652 - Catalonia revolted against the rule of the Spanish King Philip IV, under the protection of the French Bourbon King Louis XIII.

1716 - The Nueva Planta Decree was imposed, resulting in the ban of the Catalan language in legal and official usage.

1833 to 1876 - Catalans parted with the Carlists in a series of civil wars in an attempt to regain the lost regional autonomy.

1898 - Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War, resulted in the loss of Spanish colonies in the Caribbean, effectively ending the Spanish Empire.

1913 to 1925 - Commonwealth of Catalonia was formed through which Catalonia underwent great regional and technological development. Eventually, its rule was repealed by dictator Miguel Primo de Rivera.

September 9, 1932 - The first Statute of Autonomy was passed by the Spanish Parliament.

1939 to 1975 - Dictator Francisco Franco ruled the Kingdom of Spain, and during his rule, the regional patriotism and culture was heavily oppressed. The Francoist government also centralized the national government by revoking autonomy and powers previously granted to Spanish regions.

November 20, 1975 - Death of Dictator Francisco Franco marked the beginning of Spain's transition to modern democratic governance.

1979 - The Second Statute of Autonomy was passed which resulted in the reinstatement of the Generalitat, recognition of "Catalan" as a nationality, and increased Catalan sovereignty.

August 9, 2006 - The Second Statute of Autonomy was amended, giving increased power to the Generalitat and describing Catalonia as a "nation".

June 28, 2010 - The Spanish Constitutional Court rejected the 2006 Statute of Autonomy.

November 9, 2014 - Catalonia held a non-binding referendum on Catalan independence.

June 10, 2017 - The Catalan Executive Council officially calls for an independence referendum, marking the beginning of the committee.

History of the Issue

Unification of Catalonia and Spain

Catalonia is a historic region of Spain enclosing the northeastern provinces of Barcelona, Girona, and Tarragona. It was initially created by Charlemagne, a ruler of the Carolingian Dynasty of the Franks, as a demilitarised buffer zone against the Muslim Almohad caliphate's invasions. As a result, the counties that occupied the neutral region, ruled by local nobles, pledged their allegiance to the Carolingian emperors. With time, as the influence of Carolingian rule decreased, the autonomy of the various counties strengthened. These counties eventually began to merge through militaristic coalitions, diplomatic pacts, and dynastic marriages. By the end of the 12th century, the entire region had been commonly started to be described by the word "Catalonia," as indicated by written records of the time.

In 1137, Barcelona, a major county of Catalonia, was integrated into the Kingdom of Aragon, as Count Ramon Berenguer of Barcelona was betrothed to Petronila, queen of Aragon, and consequently would soon become a major part of Aragonese interests due to its connectivity to major trading ports and markets of the Mediterranean. However, the primary precedence associated with Catalonia would soon start to diminish in 1469, when the Kingdoms of Aragon and Castile were unified through the marriage of Ferdinand II and Isabella. This unification is considered as the formation of the Kingdom of Spain¹.

Till the 17th century, Catalonia, through its distinction, would be exempted from paying certain Spanish taxes and have a separate parliament from Spain. However, such would change under Philip IV. He subjected the Catalonians to increased taxes and sending able-bodied men to fight the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), which only drove Catalan discontent against the Spanish. In 1640, Catalonia revolted against Spain and placed itself under the suzerainty of Louis XIII of the Bourbon Dynasty of France. However, the revolt was extinguished in the 1650s, soon after France withdrew its protection. Fortunately for the Catalans, Philip IV remained merciful to them despite their rebellion and maintained Catalan egalitarianism.

During the War of Spanish Succession, which was triggered by the death of the heirless Spanish Habsburg Monarch Charles II, the Spanish Throne finally went to the French Bourbon Monarch Philip V. As this meant that the Bourbons would control France as well as Spain, forming a supposed 'Superstate'. As a result, war ensued between the 'anti-Bourbon' Grand Alliance, which constituted England, Australia, and the Dutch Republic, and the 'Bourbon' Spain and France. However, as the union between Spain and France proved too fragile, the Bourbons were

¹ New World Encyclopedia, 2.8 "Kingdom of Spain"
<https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Spain>

compelled to surrender, and Spain was forced to yield parts of its territories under the Treaty of Utrecht.

During the war, Catalonia, along with the kingdoms of Valencia and Aragon, had sided with the Grand Alliance. It was severely punished by Philip V. By being integrated into the Kingdom of Spain, Valencia and Aragon were guaranteed a limited amount of sovereignty. However, Catalonia, under the Nueva Planta Decree² of 1716, was required to follow Castilian laws, Catalan universities and government institutions were closed, and the Catalan language was banned from being used in legal and official references. These impositions streaked an unmistakable blemish on Catalan culture and self-autonomy, which would pave its drive till the 20th century.

The Catalan Renaissance (Mid 18th to the End of 19th century)

Through a series of civil wars (Carlist Wars, 1833-1876), Catalan, however unsuccessful, attempted to regain its autonomy. The autocratic Carlists (supporters of Infante Carlos, who led a political movement to preserve cultural and political regionalism, as opposed to a unified state) aimed to remove the rule of the Bourbon family from Spain. The Catalans, wishing to regain their lost sovereignty under the Spanish monarchs, stood by the Carlists, though unfortunately, they lost the series of civil wars.

After decades of relentless political discord and civil wars, Catalonia was finally able to advance economically and technologically in the second half of the 19th century, solely due to the remarkable manufacturing output and commercial growth brought by the Industrial Revolution.

Despite the failed martial efforts to bring back Catalan autonomy, Catalan culture and arts flourished during this time. In direct opposition to the Nueva Planta Decree of 1716, an essential purpose of the “La Renaixença” or the “Catalan Renaissance” was to bring back the Catalan language into widespread usage. Catalan Poets and writers publicly published patriotic works of art that hugely enriched Catalan arts and culture. The popular and upper classes warmly embraced their Catalan culture and frequently patronised arts and theatre in native Catalan. However, such patriotic display of the Catalan language was met with great condemnation and critique from Madrid.

² Femturisme.cat, Nueva Planta Decree
<https://www.femturisme.cat/en/routes/behind-the-decree-of-nova-planta>

Temporary Re-Attainment of Catalan Autonomy (1901-1936)

Through its defeat in the Spanish War of Succession, Spain began to gradually lose its stance as a significant global power. In 1898, Spain lost the Spanish-American War, as a result of which it lost its colonies of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Philippines, and Guam. The loss of its colonies effectively ended the Spanish Empire. This loss on behalf of the Spanish Government significantly compromised its credibility, which coincided with the formation of several regional political parties on the foundation of a flourishing Catalan regional identity, like La Liga Regionaliste (the Regionalist League), which in turn led to the successful electoral coalition, Solidaritat Catalana, in the Spanish General Elections of 1907.

The Commonwealth of Catalonia was created in 1913, in which the four provinces of Catalonia - Barcelona, Girona, Lleida, and Tarragona, were given limited joint self-governance³. Under the Commonwealth, the region of Catalonia underwent massive development in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and technology. However, such prosperity was short-lived as the Commonwealth was eventually abolished in 1925 during the dictatorial rule of Miguel Primo de Rivera, who believed that all parts of Spain should be unified and be ruled unilaterally. Primo de Rivera's reign proved to be counterproductive and left Spain in a worse position than before, partially due to his lackluster response to the Great Depression⁴. His resignation from power in 1930 allowed Catalonia to become an Independent State. Catalonia broke free from Spain and formed the Catalan Republic on April 14, 1931, under the leadership of Francesc Macià, a left-wing separatist. However, the Republic remained independent for only 10 hours, as Macià struck a compromise with the new Spanish Republic, that According to the '*1932 Statute of Autonomy*,' Catalonia would remain in Spain as an autonomous state, under the rule of the newly restored 'Generalitat', a system of the regional parliamentary government which Catalonia had lost more than two centuries ago.

³ BBC News, Catalonia Profile, "Rise of Nationalist Sentiment"
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-20345073>

⁴ University of Vigo, The Great Depression in Spain
http://egimenez.webs.uvigo.es/egimenez/papers/gdep_in_spain.pdf

Catalonia Under the Rule of Francisco Franco (1939-1975)

Unfortunately, the second iteration of the Generalitat did not stay for long, as during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), the dissenting right-wing fascist rebels led by Francisco Franco proved successful. As a result, Primo de Rivera's socialist nationalists were replaced with Franco's authoritarian nationalists. The Spanish Civil War ended on April 1, 1939, commencing Franco's dictatorship, which lasted for 36 years, a period in which Spain was known as "Francoist Spain".

For the next three and a half decades of Franco's rule, Catalonia experienced a gradual decline of its autonomy as the Statute of Autonomy was consistently dismantled in the following period.

A major policy enforced by the Franco regime was that of a rigid cultural unity in Spain. To implement this, the use of any language other than Castilian Spanish was banned, sparking outrage in the natives of Catalonia as they were restricted to the usage of their beloved native tongue only to the privacy of their homes. In hindsight, it was evident that Franco's decree of unified cultural unity imposed on all Spanish nationals would be massively unsuccessful. As the Dictator's rule slowly weakened over the decades, in the 1960s, inspired by American "anti-war, pro-peace" protests, Catalan youth began to fight for their cultural rights, defending the Catalan identity despite the risk of persecution. Eventually, the Spanish dictatorship had to yield and permit certain regional traditions to be practised.

Post-Francoist Spain and Gradual Transition to Democracy (1975-2006)

Under Franco's oppressive and authoritarian rule, liberal and left-centrist politics became popular among the masses, despite being banned. After Franco died in 1975, the gradually weakening dictatorship he had established collapsed, and Madrid shifted away from far-right, fascist politics. As a result, Spain gradually transitioned to a democracy. The Spanish masses greatly advocated for the creation of a new constitution, which was eventually carried forward in 1978 by the Spanish Parliament.

The newly formed Constitution issued for the creation of 17 autonomous regions throughout the entire nation based on regional diversity and culture. Catalonia was one of these regions and under the new "1978 Statute of Autonomy". Under the new statute, the Generalitat was reinstated as Catalonia's regional government, entirely responsible for specific policy matters like policing, environment, and culture, but only had limited jurisdiction on other issues, such as foreign affairs, education, etc. A major detail of the new statute was that it described Catalan as a nationality, however not of Catalonia as a nation. This indicated to the Catalan masses that they truly required a greater degree of sovereignty.

In the next few decades, Catalonia would undergo significant economic and cultural development, would have held six regional elections, seen the creation of the regional police force - Mossos d'Esquadra, and would also host the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics. The hosting of the Olympics had been incredibly beneficial for the region, with the Government having greatly invested in regional infrastructure and technology. The games also reinforced Catalonia (and especially Barcelona)'s international portrayal, transforming the city into a major spot for tourism and international commerce, thereby creating many jobs for the locals and creating a flourishing economy for Catalonia.

Re-Emergence of the Catalan Independence Movement (2006-2017)

With further growth in Catalonia's economy came a greater demand for a higher degree of authority from the region's citizens. The feeling of greater cultural nationalism grew, leading towards a separate 'Catalonian Identity' instead of a 'Spanish Identity.' In August 2006, the 1979 Statute of Autonomy for Catalonia was amended. The newly amended statute gave the Generalitat more control over Catalonia's domestic affairs, including budget and taxation, and a new Economic Model for Catalonia. It recognised Catalan as the official language of Catalonia. It also described Catalonia as a "nation", this important change implied a formal recognition of Catalonia as a separate State within Spain and not just an autonomous community. However, most of these changes proved to be only temporary, as soon after, in 2010, the Spanish Constitutional Court struck down most of the 2006 changes, particularly the semantics that described Catalonia as a 'nation,' and stated that being labelled the same "had no legal effect", as Catalan laws did not supersede the Spanish Constitution. This decision taken by the court sparked mass protests as Catalan citizens took to the streets to dispute the Court's ruling.

The economic prosperity that Catalan had enjoyed for decades would also cease, as the Great Recession of 2008⁵ would greatly affect international commerce and the global economy. The recession lasted longer than expected and led to a great burst of unemployment in the Spanish workforce. By July 2012, over 20 per cent of the national working population was unemployed and higher in the youth between the ages of 18 and 25, where the percentage reached as high as 50% of the entire age group as unemployed.

In response to the economic recession, the Spanish Government increased taxes and reduced its budget and expenditure by cutting welfare benefits. This action taken by the government revealed a massive disparity in the amount of taxes paid and welfare benefits received by various regions. More economically prosperous regions such as Catalonia had been paying more taxes to the government, which in turn had been redistributed as an aid in the poorer parts of the nation.

⁵ Bank of Spain, The Imbalances built up in the Spanish Economy in the expansion prior to 2008
<https://www.bis.org/review/r170727e.pdf>

This inequality sparked outrage among Catalan taxpayers. They believed that the enormous amounts of taxes paid by them should be prioritised on developing Catalonia rather than other regions of the nation.



The Question of Independence for Catalonia

Catalans, for centuries, had been satisfied to be a part of the Kingdom of Spain as they had been endowed with specific special privileges. This can be affirmed with the fact that most Catalans were highly supportive of the 1979 Statute of Autonomy, despite it not offering outright independence as a nation, as it provided them with the reintroduction of the Generalitat, which political activists had fought for more than two centuries. However, this doesn't mean that there had never been support for Catalonia as a nation, but a remarkably flourishing economy and quality of life had kept it out of the question. The 2010 curtailing of the 2006 Statute of Amendment of Catalonia reignited the Catalan Independence Movement, as Catalans once more started questioning their degree of autonomy.

The question of Independence for Catalonia from Spain has proved controversial among the Catalan public itself. Polls taken in recent years are united in indicating that an independence referendum must be held, with an average of greater than 70% desiring to hold one. However, the matter of whether Catalonia should be independent has been relatively evenly split.

Spanish Politics

The relations between Spain and Catalonia have not been pleasant or diplomatic since the beginning of the conflict. The delegates must be prepared to face severe opposition and obstructions from Spain, which will try its level best to stop the referendum. It will not only pose logistical challenges to the referendum but can also use its power to interfere in the working of the Executive Council and Parliament.

In 2017, the government in Spain was formed by Prime Minister Rajoy and his People's Party along with a coalition of other parties, all of which were against the Catalan independence referendum. The five dominant Spanish political parties (the People's Party, the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, Podemos, Ciudadanos, Vox, and the Union, Progress and Democracy Party) support some form of unionism, with each party holding different, specific viewpoints regarding the status of Catalonia.

The Spanish Socialist Workers' Party is a federalist party and recognises specific autonomous communities. It believes in providing them with powers separate from those granted to other regions.

Vox is a proponent of political unitarism and demands the highest level of integration and centralisation of the Spanish government. If their ideology transforms into actual politics, autonomous communities might not exist any longer.

Ciudadanos and the People's Party support the status quo regarding Catalonia and other autonomous regions. Podemos is also a unionist party; however, the party supports holding a referendum, considering that a majority of Catalans endorse the idea.

The delegates will have to keep in mind which parties they can seek support from or negotiate with so as to take advantage of the opportunities that benefit the independence movement.

Topics for Discussion

1.Economic Ramifications

Catalonia is the most prosperous region of Spain. It constitutes just 16% of the country's population but still makes a hefty contribution of **223.6 billion euros a year**, which is 20% of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Spain. The region received an overseas investment of **37 billion euros** in 2016, 25% of the Spanish total. In addition to this, the region recorded a total of **71 billion euros** worth of exports in 2017 through products like cars, chemicals and food products, just to name a few.⁶

Since the region is wealthier, it carries much of the financial burden of Spain. It pays 21% of the country's total taxes, and these are then redistributed to other poorer regions. If Catalonia successfully gets independence, it would no longer have to pay such high amounts of taxes to the Government and can therefore direct it towards the region's development. An independent Generalitat would also be able to frame their own economic policies instead of following those made by the Spanish Government.

However, there is also a downside to this independence. "The establishment of a border would result in loss of jobs, income and wealth," says Alain Cuenca, an economics professor at the University of Zaragoza in Spain. Catalan exports might also suffer as 35.5% of those are bought by Spain. Building new structures such as embassies, courts, etc., will involve their own costs.⁷

Another major issue Catalonia might face is the withdrawal of Spanish companies. In the wake of expected violence and the Spanish Court declaring the referendum illegal, many important companies might start withdrawing from the region.

2.National Debt Issue

Spain has a public debt of \$1.18 trillion, out of which \$86.9 billion was taken by the region of Catalonia. If Catalonia refuses to pay this after independence, this coupled with the loss of the region's taxes would be a massive disadvantage for Spain. However, if the Kingdom of Spain forces Catalonia to pay this debt after independence, it would prove to be detrimental to the economic growth of the newly formed nation.

3.European Union

⁶ The Guardian: How Important is Catalonia to Spain

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/02/catalonia-important-spain-economy-greater-role-size>

⁷ CNBC News: Economic Effects of the Spain-Catalonia Split

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/09/21/heres-how-bad-economically-a-spain-catalonia-split-could-really-be.html>

The European Union is an important body governing common economic, social and security policies of more than 25 countries in Europe. It helps the member nations to ensure the free movement of people, goods, services and capital. All member nations use a common currency, which is the Euro.

If Catalonia becomes an independent region, the Generalitat will have to decide its relationship with the European Union. The European Union has a clear stance on the issue that if Catalonia is formed illegally (against the Spanish Constitution), it would not be recognised as a state. Even if the European Union recognises it as a nation, it would have to apply for membership. This would imply convincing all the member nations - including Spain.

Not being a member of the European Union would mean that Catalonia loses all privileges offered by the Union. It would face several restrictions on the trade of goods and the usage of the Euro as a currency. The EU currently accounts for roughly 65.8% of Catalan exports and losing them would cause much harm to the economy.

4. Inter-Regional Cooperation

Catalonia is not the only region of Spain that wants to secede from Spain. Some other Spanish regions also have varying levels of separatist sentiments. The Generalitat can try to gather support from these regions to tackle Spain.

The Basque Country is the most similar to Catalonia in its demand for independence. They have a unique language called Euskara, which is different from the one spoken in the Kingdom of Spain. Basque people also have a distinct ethnic identity being one of the oldest European indigenous groups. The PNV party, which is the Basque Nationalist Party, holds five seats in the Spanish Congress and six seats in the Senate.

Other regions with separatist sentiments are Valencia and Balearic Islands. These regions have small regionalist parties demanding more autonomy and respect for cultural diversity, but their movements or intentions are not as strong as those of Catalonia or Basque.

Galicia is another region that has a unique identity, separate culture and language. It existed as the Kingdom of Galicia before merging into Spain and comprised present-day northwestern Spain and northern Portugal. Due to a shared language and earlier association with Portugal, a set of people in the region believe that Galicia should either become independent or reunite with Portugal. However, the region is not prosperous. It has not gotten the benefits of industrialisation

and is still supported by agriculture. Due to this, the Galician nationalist sentiment is slow to spread, but it is not dead.⁸

These regions might prove to be an asset to the Catalan government during the referendum if the Generalitat is able to negotiate with them.



⁸ Aljazeera: Which other regions want to secede from Spain?
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/27/which-other-regions-want-to-secede-from-spain>

Party Roles

Catalan European Democratic Party (PDeCAT)

The party is a centre-right party that believes in the integration of Catalonia in Europe and believes in following the semi-laissez-faire approach to the economy. This approach means that the government should not interfere too much in the economy of the region. It believes in capitalism. The party can negotiate with other political parties as they view themselves as moderates on issues like civil liberties, healthcare, etc.

Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC)

The Republican Left of Catalonia is the oldest political party in Catalan politics that has supported the idea of a sovereign Catalan nation for the entirety of its existence. From the inception of ERC in 1931, they have always been in favour of statehood for Catalonia⁹. They describe themselves as social democrats and, just like the PDeCAT, can negotiate with other parties due to their flexible policies.

Popular Unity Candidacy (CUP)

The CUP is the leftist party in Catalonia. It opposes capitalism and has been a critic of Spanish policies since the beginning. It has even called its supporters to disobey the Spanish Government. It would be difficult for CUP to negotiate with parties like PDeCAT due to their inherent differences on socialist issues.

Independents

Independents are members without any party affiliation. Non-government members are also considered independents. These members are free to associate with any party or not associate with any of them. However, these delegates should ensure that they maintain a consistent stance and not switch from one ideology to another.

Delegates are encouraged to follow their parties' ideology, but they can deviate from it in some cases. The party ideologies might not be applicable everywhere. Therefore, delegates are free to form their own opinions to find the most effective solution to a given problem.

⁹ Harris, Simon (2014). Catalonia is Not Spain: A Historical Perspective. S.I. 4 cats book. pp. 197–200.

Questions a Bill must Answer

1. How can the Generalitat stop Spanish intervention in the October referendum and conduct it successfully?
2. How must Catalonia solve the economic crisis that might occur after Independence?
3. What will be the relationship between Catalonia and Spain if Catalonia fails to get independence?
4. How does the Generalitat solve the national debt issue? Should Catalonia pay the debt, or does it remain with Spain?
5. What will be the social, political and economic structure of independent Catalonia?
6. Should independent Catalonia be a part of the European Union? If not, how does the Generalitat minimise the economic and political disadvantages of the same?
7. How would the Generalitat gain domestic or foreign support for the referendum?

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