

INFORMATIVE NOTE

National and international specialists advocate setting standards for the resolution of territorial sovereignty conflicts in Europe

- *Within the framework of the international conference "Sovereignty conflicts in Europe: bases for a solution", organised by Eusko Ikaskuntza and the Institute of Catalan Studies, some bases for the elaboration of a code of good practices have been presented which aim to strengthen the European project and the links between citizens and territories.*

Bilbao, 13 November 2020: The international conference **Territorial sovereignty conflicts in Europe: towards a code of good practices**, organised by Eusko Ikaskuntza and the Institute of Catalan Studies, in collaboration with a score of entities from the Basque Country, Catalonia and Europe, was held from 11th to 13th November, online and in semi-presential format the last of these days in Azkuna Zentroa, Bilbao.

With the participation of a broad panel of academic, institutional and socio-political experts of international renown, the forum has contributed to reflections on the common European project, its articulation and democratisation, starting with an analysis of the current context with a view to implementing new resolution scenarios. Specifically, the discussions revolved around three main themes: What is territorial sovereignty conflict? Why should Europe intervene? and How should it intervene?

In the session on Friday 13th November, representatives of the foundations and entities that promote the initiative were present: Rubén Cela from Galiza Semper Foundation, Floren Aoiz from Iratzar Fundazioa, David Minoves from CIEMEN, Gemma Ubasart and Xavier Domènech from Sobirania, Francesc Llobet from Fundació Sobirania i Justícia, Ferran Requejo and Mireia Grau from the Institut d'Estudis de l'Autogovern and Lluís Pérez from Fundació Josep Irla.

In that session the document **The bases for the elaboration of a code of good practices in the resolution of territorial sovereignty conflicts** was presented. The text, analytical and propositional in nature, notes

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the existence at the present time in the world and in Europe of conflicts which are not the residue of a distant past. Such conflicts are expressions of demands which must be channelled through contemporary democratic instruments and resolved with scrupulous respect for human rights; even more so as they affect individual and collective rights which transcend state borders and concern the international community.

Admitting that there are no simple solutions, the document points to the need to determine international standards in this area, along the lines of those already existing in other fields. An important step towards this goal would be the development of codes of good practice for conflict resolution – as the bases for their elaboration now presented in a first draft – a task that various institutions within the European framework could take on.

In conclusion, the transnational group promoting the *Bases for the elaboration of a code of good practices in the resolution of territorial sovereignty conflicts* expresses its conviction that these actions, if put into practice, would strengthen the Community project insofar as they affect its founding values and contribute to its stability by providing the European institutional architecture with a system of governance that would strengthen links between citizens and territories.

Organising entities

Eusko Ikaskuntza is a private scientific-cultural entity, founded in 1918 by the Regional Governments of Alava, Biscay, Guipuzcoa and Navarre, to provide global and integrating responses to the social, political, cultural and economic challenges of the Basque Country, taking into account its territorial specificities and overcoming administrative, ideological and social barriers.

Institut d'Estudis Catalans (IEC) is an academic, scientific and cultural corporation whose objective is scientific research into all elements of Catalan culture. It is the academia of the Catalan language and conducts research in all fields of science and humanities. It covers all knowledge disciplines and its scope of action is all Catalan-speaking territories. Founded in 1907 by Enric Prat de la Riba the Institute has been an instrument for the linguistic, scientific and cultural normalisation of the country, with an international predilection since 1922 when it became part of the International Academic Union and since 2014 when it formed part of ALLEA.

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