



Institut
d'Estudis
Catalans

Declaration of the *Institut d'Estudis Catalans* relative to the sentence of the Constitutional Court about the Statute of Catalonia

The Catalan Studies Institute (*Institut d'Estudis Catalans*), the national academy of sciences and humanities, considers politically unjustified and entirely inadmissible that the Spanish Constitutional Court should decide about the legality of the Statute of Catalonia, thus disdaining the decision of the Catalan people who, in a referendum, gave it a constitutional nature for all the territory of Catalonia.

Furthermore, the Catalan Studies Institute considers that the sentence of the Constitutional Court about the Statute as it refers to the use of the word 'nation', the treatment of the Catalan language, the civil law of Catalonia and the historical and linguistic rights of the Catalan people, among other issues, seriously damages the popular will expressed by referendum. This sentence is a step backward which could lead to unacceptable consequences for the political, economic, social and cultural life of Catalonia.

Catalonia, as a thousand-year-old nation, has always recognised itself as a nation and, as a result, is subject of collective rights, established internationally (United Nations Charter and international agreements in civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights). Catalonia enjoys an inalienable right, prior to the Spanish Constitution of 1978, to its own law, and to shape its language, culture, economy and society.

Without further analysing the content of the sentence of the Constitutional Court, the Catalan Studies Institute, which is also the official academy of the Catalan language, rejects any attempt to restrict both the individual and the collective rights of the Catalan people and to diminish the preferential treatment that Catalan, as the official and national language, deserves in the public administrations and the media.

The Catalan Studies Institute strongly rejects the sentence of the Constitutional Court, which demeans the Statute of Catalonia, and encourages the citizenry to defend civilly and strongly the right of the Catalan people to decide democratically its own future.

Barcelona, June 30, 2010