



H.E. Pío García-Escudero Márquez,  
Speaker of the Senate of  
Las Cortes Generales,  
MADRID

Reykjavík, December 4<sup>th</sup> 2018

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Esteemed Colleague,

I write you this letter to express my concerns about the situation of Ms. Carme Forcadell, former President of the Parliament of Catalonia, who has been imprisoned since March 23<sup>rd</sup> this year, still awaiting trial.

I 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 its member states. Article 5 of The European Convention of Human Rights stipulates clearly that: "Everyone arrested or detained [...] shall be brought promptly before a judge [...] and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release pending trial." Ms. Forcadell was a rightly elected President of the Parliament of Catalonia and her long imprisonment awaiting trial causes grave concern.

I would appreciate, Esteemed Colleague, if the relevant Spanish authorities were informed about my position and concerns for an elected representative, the former President of the Parliament of Catalonia; imprisoned and pending trial for months.

Cc: President of the Congreso de los Diputados, H.E. Ana Pastor.

Steingrímur J. Sigfússon  
*Speaker of Althingi, Parliament of Iceland*