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1. Background and historical contextualisation

On 24 December 2020 **Catalunya en Comú (CeC)** applied to become a Candidate Member of EGP. In its letter, CeC stated that *“Catalunya en Comú has been regularly cooperating in the last years with the Green Family in Europe. Not only have we strengthened our ties with the Greens in different Member States, but we have also particularly worked in boosting our cooperation with Green Members at the local level”*.

EGP Committee accepted this request in the March Committee meeting and organised a hybrid (physical and virtual) fact-finding mission to Barcelona on 29-30-31 March 2021. The EGP delegation consisted of Thomas Waitz (Co-chair) and Mar Garcia (Secretary-General), physically present in Barcelona, and Committee Members responsible for Spain Evelyne Huytebroeck (Co-chair) and Vula Tsetsi (Committee member) online. Throughout the mission, the EGP met several relevant Catalan stakeholders who described their relationship with and gave their opinion on CeC.

To better understand the socio-political context in which CeC was created, a chronological description of the building process of Catalunya en Comú will follow. It is important to underline that this political project was created in a very turbulent period in Spanish and Catalan politics. In 2011 the **15M** (15 May) Movement rose from the streets in the biggest Spanish cities (mainly Madrid and Barcelona) and attracted several people who were experiencing an increased feeling of disaffection towards politics in the worst moments of the financial crisis. The 15M Movement developed in many different ways: one was the construction of new political parties such as Podemos (which gained 5 MEPs in their first-ever elections in 2014); another was broad coalition lists of the so-called “transformative leftist” movements and parties such as **Barcelona en Comú** (winning the Barcelona City Council in 2015).

At the same time, in Catalonia the main political and public debate revolved around the “Catalan process”, the conflict between the Spanish and Catalan governments. This situation has partially changed since PSOE (Socialists) and Podemos formed the Spanish government and modified the strategy - from a clear confrontation and using the judicial

power as the instrument to deal with the political conflict, to a period of easing tensions and claiming dialogue as the only path to solve the conflict. Notwithstanding, CeC has profiled itself as the political force which wanted to talk about people's problems rather than about the independence issue, putting social justice at the centre of its project.

The embryo of what would become Catalunya en Comú was launched in 2016 as a political platform under the name **Un País en Comú**; the funding assembly took place in April 2017 - where the name "Catalunya en Comú" was adopted - and the Statutes were adopted in 2018; it was a long process of development from an electoral platform into a regular political party. It was originally founded by members of **Barcelona en Comú**, **Iniciativa per Catalunya Verds (ICV)**, **Esquerra Unida i Alternativa (EUiA)**, **Equo** and **Podem Catalunya**. Podem did not join the founding process but was involved at a later stage.

CeC is the evolution of several political parties, groupings and individual activists from the left of the political spectrum, which developed as a consequence of the social movements born after the 2008 financial crisis, and by political parties trying to adapt to the new situation. The evolution and configuration of the party are very much linked to the many elections that took place during a very **turbulent period**, both for Catalan and Spanish politics, between 2015 and 2021: four general elections (to elect the Spanish Congress) and three Catalan elections (to elect the Catalan Parliament) have taken place in less than six years.

A new political actor (**Barcelona en Comú**) burst into the Catalan political landscape in **2015** when it won the Barcelona municipal elections led by **Ada Colau** in May. Colau had started a project named "Guanyem Barcelona" the previous year, in 2014, one month after Podemos ran its first (European) elections and reached an unexpected impressively good result; the coalition list of Barcelona en Comú was agreed in February 2015 as a result of the "confluence" of multiple parties: ICV, EUiA, Equo, Procés Constituent, Podemos and activists from Guanyem Barcelona.

In the same year, September 2015, the Catalan elections took place and a list similar to the one in Barcelona was created. Under the name of **Catalunya Sí que es Pot** (Catalonia Yes We Can), a list led by an independent activist (the former president of the Barcelona Federation of Neighbourhood associations) and members from ICV, EUiA, Equo and Podem, elected 8 MPs in the Catalan Parliament. Barcelona en Comú/Guanyem

Barcelona did not participate¹ in this coalition list but did so in the list for Spanish elections, which also took place in December 2015. A coalition list with ICV, EUiA, Equo, Podem and Barcelona en Comú was agreed under the name of **En Comú Podem** and it emerged unexpectedly as the largest force in Catalonia (25% and 12 seats in the Spanish Congress). The lead candidate of this list was Xavier Domènech, an activist and historian scholar. No party secured a majority in the Spanish elections (resulting in the most fragmented Parliament since 1977) and all the negotiations for a stable governing coalition failed. In June 2016, elections were repeated. En Comú Podem's alliance was renewed and it maintained its status as the largest political list in Catalonia on 26 June but fell short of achieving a landslide victory at the scale predicted by opinion polls.

Meanwhile, in December 2016, **Un País en Comú** was launched as a political project bringing together political parties (ICV, EUiA, Podem, Equo), Guanyem Barcelona and relevant public figures. In April 2017 the founding Assembly of Catalunya en Comú took place; in March 2017 Podem left the project, although some of its members (like Jéssica Albiach) remained. Ada Colau and Xavier Domènech were elected as "General Coordinators"².

In December 2017 there were new Catalan elections due to the Spanish government stripping Catalonia of its autonomy after the Catalan President (Carles Puigdemont) declared "Unilateral Catalan Independence" as an outcome of the mandate of the so-called Independentist Referendum which had taken place on 1st October. In these elections, a coalition list similar to the previous one was created, including Barcelona en Comú and with Xavier Domènech as the lead candidate (he resigned from his seat in the Spanish Congress). The list named **Catalunya en Comú-Podem** gained, once again, 8 MPs. One year later, in September 2018, Xavier Domènech renounced his seat in the Catalan Parliament and all his responsibilities both in Catalunya en Comú and Podem and went back to his position as a university professor. Ada Colau and Candela López (ICV), replaced him.

¹ One of the potential reasons to understand why Guanyem Barcelona/Barcelona en Comú did not participate to the Catalan elections while it participated to the Spanish and Barcelona elections is due to the difficulty to do meaningful politics in Catalonia in a period when everything was monopolised by the rhetoric on the Catalan independence; this political project was the only one which had both pro-independence and anti-independence members.

² He would also be elected as Secretary General of Podem in April 2018.

2018 was the only year without elections, and Catalunya en Comú celebrated its Council - the **Organisational Assembly** - where the statutes and rule book have been adopted.

In **April 2019**, General elections in Spain took place which was repeated in November 2019 due to the lack of agreement between PSOE and Podemos, but a government agreement was finally reached in December 2019. Catalunya en Comú ran again under the coalition name **En Comú Podem**, now led by Jaume Asens (Barcelona en Comú). As a result of Podemos entering into the coalition government (EGP was always a member of Podemos parliamentary group in the Spanish Congress since its creation), **one of the Ministers for Podemos was from Catalunya en Comú**³. Also in May 2019, local elections took place and although Barcelona en Comú did not win the elections (ERC 21,4% and BeC 20,7%) **Ada Colau kept the City mayorship** after an agreement with PSC.

In December 2019, there was a renovation process of the governing bodies of Catalunya en Comú, and Jéssica Albiach was elected as “National Coordinator” together with Ada Colau and Candela López. The party board is a collective National Executive Commission of 30 members, including also David Cid (former co-leader of ICV) and 5 other ICV members.

In Spring 2020 the first official Council of Catalunya en Comú was scheduled to take place; however, due to Covid19, it has been postponed.

In **February 2021**, the same coalition “**En Comú Podem**” led by Jéssica Albiach ran in Catalan elections, electing once again 8 MPs.

2. List of organised meetings

During the three days in Barcelona, the EGP Committee met different Catalan stakeholders. Below you will find a list of the people that the Committee met; this report is based on the conversations we had with them. In case you want to learn more about the meetings per se, topics discussed or the work of the organisations⁴, please address your request to the EGP office⁵.

³ [Manuel Castells](#) is the Minister for University in the Spanish government. He was proposed by Ada Colau

⁴ See Annex 2 for detailed description of the organisations

⁵ Contact Angela Paradiso - angela.paradiso@europeangreens.eu

Taula del Tercer Sector Social de Catalunya

- Francina Alsina - President of La Taula
- Jesús Delgado - Chief of Internationalisation
- Roger Civit - Director of La Taula
- Jessica Camins and Laia Orozco - Managers of the International Office

UGT - General Workers' Union of Catalonia

- Carlos de Pablo Torrecilla: Secretary of institutional policies

Casal Lambda

- Jordi Samsó: President of Casal Lambda

Feministes de Catalunya

- Silvia Carrasco Pons: Board member
- Irene Monés Ruiz: Secretary general

Plataforma pel Transport Públic

- Adrià Ramirez Papell: President
- Dolors Clavell Nadal: Vice-President

Greenpeace

- Fernando Fernandez - Mobilization Coordinator of Catalonia

Xarxa Renda Bàsica

- Lluís Torrens: Committee member

Comissions Obreres de Catalunya

- Javier Pacheco: Secretary General
- Dolors Llobet: Responsible for Membership, Studies and Board coordination.
- Michela Alberello: Responsible for international relations and cooperation

Barcelona City Council

- Eloi Badia, Local councilor for energy transition and climate emergency (Barcelona en Comú)

- Alicia Puig, cabinet of Deputy Mayor Janet Sanz in charge of mobility and urban planning (ICV)

Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya

- Meritxell Serret: MP in Catalan Parliament and former Catalan Minister of Agriculture
- Jordi Solé: EFA MEP
- Elisabet Nebreda: President of the Sectorial Commission on International Politics
- Max Zañartu: Local Councilor in Barcelona and Sec Gen of Sectorial Commission on International Politics
- Jan Bosch: staff

Partit Socialista de Catalunya

- Laura Ballarín: Secretary of international and European politics

EQUO

- Florent Marcellesi: Co-chair
- Inés Sabanés: Co-chair
- Paula Espinosa: EGP delegate
- Hugo de Armas: EGP delegate

Esquerra Verda

- Andreu Mayayo, Co-chair
- Anna Martín, Co-chair
- Lluís Camprubí, International secretary
- Mireia Marín, Organisational secretary

Joves d'Esquerra Verda

- Marc Collado: National co-coordinator
- Dani Sosa: Board member

Catalunya en Comú

- Jessica Albiach: Co-chair
- Candela López: Co-chair

3. Conclusions

Evaluation of Catalunya en Comú

Note: For details on the party structure, political programme and activities, please refer to Catalunya en Comú's application file.

Whereas this was the first official meeting between the EGP and CeC leadership, the two sides had already had exchanges and collaborations before, via MEP Ernest Urtasun, previous cooperation with Barcelona Deputy Mayor Janet Sanz and other ICV members within CeC, among others.

The EGP Committee has found Catalunya en Comú to be a young party certainly, but a very promising one. Over the course of the mission, the EGP had the opportunity to learn extensively about CeC's political vision, work and external perception from other political subjects and civil society organisations, as well as to acquire a better understanding of the political situation in Catalonia (and Spain).

The overall impression is of a political subject rooted in progressive, feminist and ecologist values, working on its party consolidation as a transformation from its previous status as a coalition of pre-existing parties and grassroots movements, each with its own political tradition and ideology, stemming globally from the world of the left. In particular, the EGP remarked the strong Green component pushed by ICV/Esquerra Verda and the predominance of Barcelona en Comú within this coalition.

During the FFM, the EGP has been able to verify that CeC has a strong role in fostering social policies, although it does not have strong and structural links with trade unions, as they were considered part of the old political establishment. The party, and especially the Parliamentary Group in the Catalan Parliament, works closely with social NGOs on inclusion, housing and childhood policies; on the other hand, Barcelona en Comú (BeC) focuses on the co-production of social policies, reinforcing the system based on the collaboration at the local level between public institutions and civil society. LGBTI organisations also feel that CeC is one of the parties which make the biggest efforts to listen to their demands while highlighting the essential role that ICV (and formerly PSUC) played in leading institutionally the movement in the 80s-90s, and in introducing

ambitious legislation in the 2000s. Additionally, CeC mainstreams a gender perspective into their structures (obligatory 50% female presence; automatic preference to women candidates in case of ties; their leadership is currently composed of 3 women) and in their policies, for instance by pushing for and supporting the Spanish law on trans rights.

It is relevant to state that many NGOs make a difference while talking about relationships with CeC and BeC: the former is in the opposition (at Catalan level), while the latter is in the government in the capital of Catalonia. Therefore, they always mention an easy cooperation with both, but they find the one with BeC much more effective as they can implement these policies, and are also considered an interlocutor with much more capacity to make real changes; on the other hand, CeC is an ally when it comes to parliamentary work.

This differentiation can also be remarked when addressing CeC's Green policies. The policies that are being implemented in Barcelona to make it a greener city are clear and are considered very brave, as they oppose many powerful city actors, and aim at taking space away from cars and giving it back to pedestrians; there is a clear willingness for a green urban transformation, while other aspects such as mobility do not seem that relevant.

It is much more difficult to identify CeC with Green policies at the regional level as they have less capacity to influence the political agenda at the Catalan level, and Green issues are not the main focus of CeC: it profiles itself more effectively as the party which brings leftist transformative policies and talks about people's daily life problems. Talking to environmentalist organisations we can conclude that CeC needs to strengthen its Green profile: even though CeC's programme is very much aligned with the Green narrative, it is not identified as a Green party; NGOs don't identify CeC as a natural ally on Green issues, as these are not topics on which the party is actively vocal or is publicly profiling itself, prioritising more socially-oriented issues.

However, there is a common understanding concerning CeC's decision to apply for EGP: almost all the stakeholders consider that CeC is kind of an evolution of ICV/EV, and has taken ICV/EV's former political space; therefore, it would be a normal evolution for them to embrace Green issues.

In terms of the Catalan issue, they do not position themselves as explicitly either pro or against independence, but in favour of the right of self-determination. This makes them a partner that can speak to citizens and stakeholders across the political divide, in a society that is currently deeply lacerated by the independence issue. Nevertheless, there are some stakeholders who remarked a certain bias from CeC towards pro independentists.

Catalunya en Comú's strength lies in local administrations, and CeC is working towards consolidating its presence in the Catalan Parliament. At the local level, it is of primary importance that they hold the mayorship of Barcelona since 2015, as Barcelona en Comú, one of CeC's constitutive parties. In the last local elections of 2019, Ada Colau was reconfirmed mayor, although Barcelona en Comú (and therefore Catalunya en Comú) did not win the majority, and is therefore in the government with the Socialists. It is in urban policies indeed that CeC counts its highest ambitions and biggest successes. In Barcelona, their biggest and most important city, the City Council (whose deputy mayor Janet Sanz is originally from ICV) has made important efforts in the fields of energy (such as using EU funds to foster energy-efficient building renovations), climate justice (Barcelona declared climate emergency), urban planning (introduction of low-emission areas and creation of green spaces, transformation of street junctions into pedestrian squares, etc).

CeC's stronghold (through Barcelona en Comú) is therefore certainly the Barcelona metropolitan area, whereas it is weaker in other Catalan cities and especially in rural areas.

Spain is a country with two EGP full member parties: Equo and Esquerra Verda (former Iniciativa per Catalunya Verds), the latter being a regional party from Catalonia. This situation reflects and respects the country's specificity. The EGP considers that Catalunya en Comú - of which ICV/EV was and is a constituent part - would serve the overarching goal of consolidating the Green space in Catalonia, embracing its cultural galaxy and political landscape, in particular in view of a possible fusion into one single party.

Relations with Spanish EGP member parties

- Esquerra Verda

Esquerra Verda (as former ICV) has been involved in the creation and consolidation of CeC from the start, offering its own political expertise and organisational structures, as well as guaranteeing the Green Catalan space. EV has a long-standing trajectory in Catalan politics (the original party - PSUC - was born in the 30s), being always a reliable partner for EGP since they joined, and wants to make sure that this trajectory and Green voice stays strong and central in Catalunya en Comú.

EV runs in coalition with CeC in virtually every election, and considers the development of CeC to be their own natural political space and a long-term project for Catalonia. EV's ultimate goal is that the two entities merge into one single Green party which will be EGP's referent in Catalonia. The EGP looks favourably at this ambition and remarks its own positive view towards the unification into one full EGP member party as a possible outcome of the process.

EV supports CeC's candidate membership application.

The EGP Committee also met Joves d'Esquerra Verda (EV youth wing), who similarly remarked their support of CeC's application. Nevertheless, concerns were raised about the attitude towards the building process of Confluència Jove (CeC youth wing) and lack of space for political initiatives.

- Equo

Equo's political action is outside Catalonia, in the rest of Spain, although they have a branch in Catalonia as well, which is in a coalition with CeC in the Catalan Parliament; however, at the Spanish level, they support competing lists.

Equo looks favourably at CeC's application, and at the prospect of cooperating in a mutually beneficial and respectful relationship and strategy to strengthen the Green space in the whole country. However, their positive signal is conditional and enshrined in the principle of not hurting one other electorally. A meeting between different Green partners before the Council will ensure a minimum of national and European coordination for future political activities from all sides.

Final conclusions and remarks

The general feeling towards CeC which emerged during the meetings was positive: the EGP remarked CeC's ambitious vision to consolidate as a Green space and as EGP referent for Catalonia, its affirmed presence in the political debate and strategic approach towards political decision-making.

Catalunya en Comú is certainly evolving from an umbrella coalition towards a more consolidated political party, and this development is promising. There are, specifically, some suggested fields on which CeC can invest in to mature:

- a bolder visibility on environmental and typically "Green" issues;
- a more capillary reach towards rural areas and rootedness in the territory (outside of big cities, especially outside of Barcelona), investing in party capacity-building in these areas;
- a more transparent internal decision-making, together with a clearer understanding of the role of each constituent party/movement, in order to improve internal democratic processes, including a functioning youth wing;
- a closer and more structural exchange with CSOs, not just at the city council level (BeC) but holistically with the entire party.

4. EGP Recommendation

From our observations and talks, as well as analysis of the application file, the EGP Committee could gather that CeC is a well-established party with financing, activity, a structure and program that fulfil the EGP's values and criteria.

CeC is recognised and mostly positively evaluated by civil society, with which it has different degrees of cooperation. It has the respect of other political subjects and is welcomed by both EGP Spanish member parties as a valuable partner with considerable political capital and recognition.

Considering the positive visit and exchanges, the EGP Committee recommends to its Member Parties and to the 33rd EGP Spring Council to accept Catalunya en Comú as a candidate member.



**Catalunya en Comú (Catalonia in Common)
Application for EGP Candidate Membership
EGP Committee FFM Report and Recommendation
to the 33rd EGP Council, 25-29 May 2021**

ANNEX 2 - **Briefing: Catalan stakeholders and FFM timetable**

MONDAY 29 MARCH

10:30 - TAULA TERCER SECTOR

It is the institution which represents the interests of social Catalan NGOs. It brings together more than 3000 nonprofit social entities from Catalonia working on different sectors such as: childhood and family, adolescence and youth, the elderly, migrants and refugees, people with disabilities, mental disorders, drug addictions, people with difficulties in accessing a job, people without a home or the Roma community, among others. Taula del Tercer Sector's main aim is to be “the main interlocutor of public institutions in the design, implementation and evaluation of social policies”.

12:30: UGT: GENERAL WORKERS' UNION OF CATALONIA

Trade union traditionally linked to the Socialist party, but whose membership is not party-based. They distanced themselves from PSC and now claim political autonomy; currently some of its former leaders are MPs with ERC. They are the second biggest trade union in Spain and in Catalonia, their avowed aim is to use social concertation in order to improve the working and living conditions of workers.

They focus on: labour advice and union action; collective bargaining; institutional representation; monitoring of health at work; trainings; civil society initiatives. UGT works transversely with CSOs, bringing together union policy and social policy. They are part of ETUC, and count over 1,000 members.

16:00: ELOI BADIA - Local Councillor of Barcelona City Council in charge of ecological transition and climate emergency

Local councillor since 2015; he comes from the environmental NGOs, mainly the ones linked with the defense of the water (“Aigua és Vida” to ensure that water policy is carried out by public sector and includes participation of and control by civil society). Successes: creation of “Barcelona Energia” – public company which operates as an energy retailer in the metropolitan area since 2019; reduction of funeral fees. He works on reducing the

negative impact of tourism; did not manage to create a “public funeral parlor”, nor to municipalize Barcelona’s water system (not enough votes).

TUESDAY 30 MARCH

09:30: Internal meeting

10:00: EQUO

12:00: CASAL LAMBDA

Not for profit centre for LGBTI people, one of Barcelona's most historical centres. Works for the social normalisation of homosexuality, through cultural activities and advocacy aimed at political institutions, parties and societal sectors.

They are also an information service and documentation centre, owning Spain's most extensive archive on LGBTI topics. They offer also advice and consultancy services on education and training, as well as legal assistance.

13:00: FEMINISTES DE CATALUNYA

Feministes de Catalunya is a women's association that defends real and effective equality between women and men, beyond the formal equality of laws designed by men. They defend the abolition of prostitution and pornography “which turns women into commodities at the service of men's desires and validate a sexuality based on violence and the consent of poor and vulnerable women”. They are also against subrogated maternity and they are against the Trans law presented by Podemos at the Spanish level. They have a strong presence in social media and have a considerable capacity to mobilise women, as two of its main aims are to raise awareness through actions on the street, in groups, in organisations and institutions, and to participate in the mobilisations and demands of the feminist movement.

15:30: PLATAFORMA PEL TRANSPORT PÚBLIC

PTP is the only association dedicated exclusively to the defense of collective public transport in Spain, under principles of social equity and environmental protection. They are members, among others, of the European Federation of Transport and Environment. PTP was created in the early 90s and was pioneer on conceptualising new forms of mobility, urban planning and the use of cars. ICV worked very closely with PTP and used

to bring many legislative proposals from them to the Catalan Parliament and the Barcelona City Council.

Some of their achievements include: adoption of the Mobility Act (2003) and of the Public Transport System Funding Act (2015) by the Catalan Parliament; first express bus line of Catalonia; integrated fare system for public transport in Barcelona; promotion of the first car-sharing company in Spain; revitalisation of a low demand regional railway line; putting a stop to the dismantling of railway infrastructure.

17:00: GREENPEACE CATALONIA

Representative of Greenpeace in charge of projects in Catalonia.

18:00: XARXA RENDA BÀSICA

Network established in 2001 by several people, activists, experts, working on the concept of basic income. It is an organisation of reference concerning how to tackle poverty.

Its aim is the "promotion and dissemination of studies and scientific research on basic income, for a better understanding of the proposal and its viability."

The Network is part of the Basic Income Earth Network, an international network.

19:00: ESQUERRA VERDA

WEDNESDAY 31

12:00: CATALUNYA EN COMÚ

14:00 - Internal debrief

16:00 - ESQUERRA REPUBLICANA DE CATALUNYA

ERC is a member of the European Free Alliance and the two ERC MEPs are in the Greens/EFA Group. ERC is currently negotiating the government agreement with Junts x Catalunya and CUP after the Catalan elections which took place on 14 February 2021^[2] - PSC won the elections closely followed by ERC. On Friday 26 March there was a first attempt to elect the President of Catalonia; ERC candidate Pere Aragonés did not receive enough support to get elected, as Junts x Catalunya did not support him (arguing that the coalition agreement is not yet finalised, especially regarding the political plan to achieve the independence of Catalonia); he was not elected in the second plenary either, still due to lack of support from JxCAT. At this stage there is still no agreement.

TUESDAY 6

13:00: COMISSIONS OBRERES DE CATALUNYA (CCOO)

Trade union which was founded during Franco's dictatorship and was very much linked to the Communist Party and its clandestine structures; because of this, in Catalonia it has been traditionally linked to ICV (many former leaders of CCOO became ICV MPs). It defines itself as internationalist and socio-political, but it is autonomous and independent. It is based on democratic participation, diversity, pluralism, multiethnicity. Its targets are all professions and social groups, including migrant workers, regardless of political affiliation, religion, etc. The group of workers affiliated to CCOO are involved in achieving higher levels of benefits and quality in health, education, public transport (and also in other civic organizations) (in order to develop the values of peace and solidarity. Areas of action: women's rights; youth; migrants; occupational health; sustainability; internationalism; cooperation; union work training; culture; pension plans and funds; promotion of Catalan language.

TUESDAY 13

16:00 JOVES D'ESQUERRA VERDA

Youth wing of ICV - now of EV -, very much linked to FYEG (many FYEG spokespersons came from JEV). It used to have a strong presence in the Catalan universities and had members around the whole country (although mainly around Barcelona). ICV considered JEV an important actor within the party due to being a well-functioning youth political organisation (with its own campaigns, presence in universities), and for being able sometimes to move the party's positions through strong and solid arguments. JEV triggered the creation of Confluència Jove (youth wing of CeC), with the intention to be dissolved within it.

17: PARTIT SOCIALISTA DE CATALUNYA

PSC was formed in 1978 during the transition period (from dictatorship to democracy). It is associated with Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE), and is member of the Party of European Socialists (PES). For years it was the main opposition party in Catalonia and was the senior partner of the "Tripartit government" (2003-2010), in coalition with ERC and ICV, the sole government in which Catalan conservatives did not take part.



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PSOE and Podemos (state partners of PSC and CeC) are governing together at Spanish level. PSC won the last Catalan elections but has not been involved in any coalition government talks.