

LAW OF THE CATALAN COMMUNITY ABROAD

(proceeding 200-00015/11)

Preamble

I

Catalonia has been a land of permanent migration. In the last twenty years it has become primarily a host country after receiving a strong immigration wave. However, the current economic situation has led to a great increase in emigration of citizens, which has progressively led to a balance between the two migration trends in the country.

Citizens of Catalonia living abroad have a legislative framework that gives them the status of subjects of the governmental action of the Generalitat of Catalonia. The challenge for institutions is to adapt and facilitate their conditions of access so as to offer this group fluid and accessible relations in accordance with the possibilities offered by information and communications technology. The institutions of Catalonia must therefore guarantee that Catalans living abroad are included in the sectoral development of public policies.

It is the wish of the Government of the Generalitat to promote and bolster actions that allow Catalans abroad, in accordance with the current possibilities, to maintain strong ties with their country of origin, to participate in its collective future, and to have access to its current affairs, its language and its culture.

The Catalan diaspora is an added value for the country. The concept of *Catalonia Abroad* includes the Catalans living abroad and the entities through which they are organized.

Therefore, the possibility of promoting and channeling individual and collective actions undertaken from abroad that may benefit the country is considered. This may be done directly or through the promotion of Catalonia in the world, on the understanding that the Catalan diaspora must play an active and proactive role in the national construction of the country.

Furthermore, the Government must face the challenge of building a comprehensive policy aimed at addressing emigration by citizens of Catalonia. The cross-cutting welcome policies for immigrants of the last two decades have been successful and must be taken as a reference for Catalan institutions, social partners and civil society to design and implement policies regarding international mobility. These policies must aim to support and advise Catalans who wish to live abroad, allowing them to maintain ties with Catalonia during their stay and to return voluntarily at a later date.

This desire to address emigration must take into account the regulation of return that was the object of Law 25/2002, of 25 November, on measures to support the return of emigrant Catalans and their descendants, and the second amendment of Law 18/1996.

II

Catalan emigration is not a new phenomenon. In the last few centuries, emigration has steadily outweighed immigration. This long period of emigration has led to the creation of many Catalan communities with a large membership that go under different names and have created a significant Catalan presence in the world.

The first Catalan organizations in the world were mutual societies such as the Charitable Society of Natives and Descendants of Catalonia in Havana (1840) and the Montserrat Mount of Piety Catalan Association of Mutual Aid of Buenos Aires (1857). Some, such as the Casal de Catalunya in Buenos Aires (1886), were also created as a meeting point for the Catalans who had emigrated mainly for economic reasons. Over the years, the organization of the Catalan diaspora has undergone many changes.

For much of the twentieth century, the Catalan communities were places of welcome and were crucial for the conservation of the Catalan culture and language abroad. The members of these organizations were very active culturally and made great efforts to maintain ties with the homeland.

As a result of globalization, Catalans are represented through Catalan communities in most parts of the world. Information and communications technology and modern transport have transformed the organization of Catalans living abroad, and these meeting points have become places of outreach.

III

Although Article 6.2 of the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia of 1979 recognized the political status of Catalans abroad, the lack of specific regulations led to the enactment of the first law specifically regulating relations with these entities. Rights and duties in this field were first recognized by Law 18/1996, of 27 December, on relations with Catalan communities abroad, and the regulations that implement it. The Government of the Generalitat thus recognized Catalan communities abroad and established mechanisms for relations and cooperation.

However, some regulations that have come into force since 1996 clearly affect Catalans abroad and the entities that they have created. Article 13 of the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia of 2006, which for the first time recognized the existence of Catalan communities abroad, in addition to other sectoral or basic state regulations, made it necessary to undertake a regulatory review of relations between the institutions of Catalonia and the forms of organization of Catalans living abroad. New forms of organization of Catalans abroad have emerged, and some of the rules regulating relations with them have become obsolete or inefficient.

The present law establishes a new framework for systematic relations with Catalan communities in the broadest sense of the term, and with their members collectively and individually. These relations are structured so that the assistance and support of the Administration and Government of the Generalitat are adapted to the needs and realities of this Catalan presence in the world.

The Law aims to guarantee that Catalan communities abroad become leading agents of social and cultural life in the places where they are set up, and that their action is sufficiently recognized within the country. It also aims to remedy any lack of knowledge of the history, presence and potential of the Catalan diaspora as an active agent in the international outreach of Catalonia and as a group that is committed to Catalonia.

IV

The Law on the Catalan Community Abroad has four chapters, twenty-two articles, six additional provisions, one repeal provision and two final provisions.

The first chapter, of general provisions, presents the object of the Law and the goals to be achieved in this area.

The second chapter deals with the relations between the Government of the Generalitat and Catalans living abroad, as well as the mechanisms for enabling and facilitating these relations.

The second chapter covers the rights enjoyed by Catalans living abroad, in addition to any other rights recognized by current law. It also includes institutional plans for comprehensively addressing emigration, which are included in the sectoral development of the agencies with powers regarding the departure, stay and return of Catalans living abroad.

The third chapter refers to the different types of entities through which Catalans living abroad are organized today, which carry out international promotion of Catalonia according to their statutory objectives.

The fourth chapter regulates the mechanisms for relations between institutions and Catalan communities abroad. In particular, it renews the permanent body for dialogue between the Government of the Generalitat and Catalonia Abroad and deals with initiatives of relations between Catalan communities abroad with the support of the Generalitat.

The additional provisions provide an annual budget item for achieving the objectives set by this law. They also establish the possibility of organizing the Catalonia Abroad Conference, assign interdepartmental coordination to the body of the ministry responsible for foreign action, and deal with cooperation regarding outreach. Finally, they deal with the working plans regarding Catalan communities abroad.

The repeal provision repeals Law 18/1996, of 27 December, on relations with Catalan communities abroad, and the final provisions contain the legal authorization to carry out the implementation of the Law and its entry in force.

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Object of the Law

The object of this law is to regulate, in accordance with current legislation, the framework of relations of the Generalitat, its institutions and Catalan society with Catalans living abroad, and with Catalans and Catalan communities established outside the territory of Catalonia. The Government supports and promotes these relationships, and fosters and guarantees compliance with this law.

Article 2. Objectives of the Law

The objectives of this law are the following:

- a) To articulate comprehensive and appropriate policies to address Catalan emigration that are adapted to the social and economic circumstances of the time.
- b) To provide support, assistance and protection to Catalans living abroad, whether or not they are members of a Catalan community, in accordance with current legislation.
- c) To incorporate Catalans abroad and the entities through which they are organized in the design and development of any sectoral policies of the Generalitat that are of interest to or aimed at this group.
- d) To contribute to the strengthening of Catalan communities and their organizations as vehicles of cohesion and relations among Catalan citizens living abroad, and also between these citizens and the institutions of Catalonia.
- e) To promote actions of international outreach by individuals and organizations that disseminate knowledge of the national reality of Catalonia, particularly in the cultural, social, economic and political spheres.
- f) To promote social, cultural, economic and political relations with countries where there is a significant presence of Catalan citizens, and also with the institutions and social partners of these countries.
- g) To encourage the adoption of stable and effective channels of reciprocal relationship between Catalan communities abroad and the public institutions and private entities of Catalonia.
- h) To guarantee that the work of Catalan communities abroad and Catalan citizens abroad is taken into account, recognized and disseminated.

Article 3. International Catalonia Abroad Day

1. International Catalonia Abroad Day is celebrated on Saint George's Day if it falls on a Sunday and on the following Sunday if it does not.
2. The Government gives institutional and public support to this event in order to disseminate among Catalan citizens the existence and history of Catalan emigration and of the entities through which the emigrants are organized.

CHAPTER II. CATALANS ABROAD

Article 4. Concept and definition

1. The Generalitat recognizes Catalan citizens living abroad as the recipients of its governmental work and its public policies. This recognition means that Catalan citizens abroad are considered to be subject to rights and duties in the spheres of competence of the Generalitat.
2. For the purposes of this law, *Catalans abroad* are understood to be Spanish citizens residing abroad whose last place of legal residence was Catalonia and their descendants, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7.2 of the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia.

Article 5. The Register of Catalans Living Abroad

1. The Register of Catalans Living Abroad is the instrument through which the Government identifies citizens living abroad who enjoy the political status of Catalans in accordance with the Statute of Autonomy.
2. The requirements for registration, the data provided, the characteristics, the ownership and the management of the Register of Catalans Living Abroad are legally determined by decree.
3. The Register is assigned to the ministry responsible for foreign action.
4. The Register is public. Registration is free and voluntary. To facilitate access to services and benefits intended for Catalans living abroad, registration will be encouraged in accordance with specific regulations.
5. In accordance with the regulations on data protection, communication of the data of persons entered in the Register to other entities in the public sector of the Administration of the Generalitat of Catalonia and other public authorities to allow them to obtain a service or benefit linked to their respective public policies does not require the consent of the person concerned.
6. In accordance with the current regulations on protection of personal data, the personal data collected in the Register must be disaggregated by gender and age in order to facilitate statistical studies and gender reports.

Article 6. Integration of the specific characteristics of Catalans living abroad in public policies

1. The Government recognizes the specific characteristics of Catalans abroad in setting public policies, guarantees the integration of the specific characteristics

of Catalan citizens abroad in regulations, and promotes the development of specific policies aimed at this group.

2. The Government guarantees that Catalans abroad can enforce the rights that the current legislation awards to them, especially in the political, administrative, civil, social and linguistic spheres. It also promotes the necessary actions to guarantee that these rights are exercised in the same conditions as those that apply to Catalans residing in Catalonia, and in accordance with the principle of gender equality, equal treatment and non-discrimination.

3. The Government guarantees that all relevant public administrations will allow Catalans abroad to access services efficiently and effectively and to enjoy the benefits recognized by the current legal system.

Article 7. Access to services of the Administration

1. The Government encourages actions that allow Catalans abroad to exercise rights and to access procedures and services to which the legal system entitles them, through simplified administrative procedures that are based on the principle of minimum intervention and adapted to their special characteristics.

2. Government delegations abroad provide guidance and advice to facilitate access to any procedures and services for Catalans abroad that are determined. Also, in accordance with current regulations and international law and treaties, the delegations may carry out any other protective functions for Catalans living abroad that may be assigned to them.

3. The Electronic Office of the Generalitat, as the sole corporate portal for procedures of the Administration of the Generalitat, allows Catalans abroad to access the procedures and services offered by the Administration of the Generalitat of Catalonia, to consult the Electronic Notice Board panel, and to access the General Electronic Register of the Generalitat.

4. The Government promotes the dissemination of content of interest to Catalans abroad through its web environment.

Article 8. Rights of Catalans abroad

1. Catalans abroad enjoy the political rights defined by the Statute of Autonomy, and also the rights that the Statute grants to citizens of Catalonia within the sphere of the Administration.

2. In the civil and social sphere, the exercise of the following rights is promoted and guaranteed under the terms and conditions determined by specific regulations:

- a) The right of access to programmes, benefits and actions aimed at the elderly, young people and children, and also at groups who are in a particularly vulnerable situation, so that they can receive the necessary support from the Administration to allow them to live with dignity.
- b) The right to benefit from occupational information campaigns and to participate in the programmes of the public employment service.
- c) The right to distance learning with the use of information and communications technology in the fields and levels of education offered by the Administration.
- d) The right of access to public housing developments.
- e) The right to public health services during their temporary stays in Catalonia.
- f) The right to receive news on Catalonia through the radio and television broadcasts of the news programmes of the Catalan Broadcasting Corporation, subject to technological possibilities and broadcasting rights.

3. In the linguistic field, Catalans abroad have the right, in their relations with institutions, organizations and public authorities in Catalonia, to use the official language of their choice in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 3 of Title I of the Statute of Autonomy. The Government promotes the adoption of measures to facilitate access to Catalan and Aranese courses abroad, in person when it is possible, and also online.

4. The Government shall pay special attention to the linguistic and cultural promotion made by Catalan and Catalan communities abroad outside the territories with which Catalonia shares a language.

Article 9. Planning of emigration

1. The Government carries out strategic planning and cross-cutting programming of emigration in order to equip itself with instruments and coordinated sectoral policies for addressing the subject comprehensively.

2. The Government promotes the study of the history and reality of Catalan emigration in order to disseminate it among the citizens of Catalonia, and guarantees the express and operational mainstreaming of the perspective of gender and of women.

3. The ministry responsible for migration shall manage the strategy and coordination of programmes involving more than one government body, without

prejudice to any sectoral actions carried out by the ministries affected by the topic.

Article 10. International mobility

1. The Government, through the ministries with responsibilities for this subject, articulates the instruments and the information, guidance and support services for Catalans interested in international mobility in order to provide them with knowledge that will allow them to approach their migratory project with the best guarantee of success.
2. The Government encourages international mobility aimed at fostering excellence in academia, associations and professions, and also the return of talent.
3. For guidance prior to mobility, the ministries responsible for this subject shall organize the necessary mechanisms of cooperation between the active public services and entities and Catalan communities abroad that are active in the field of reception in the host countries of mobility.
4. The ministries responsible for this subject shall organize the necessary mechanisms of support and cooperation with Catalan communities abroad so that they have suitable means for providing the guidance and advisory services in the host countries.

Article 11. Links with Catalonia

1. Through the Ministry responsible for foreign affairs, the Government promotes and facilitates relations with Catalans abroad, promotes relations between them, and supports their organizations with the aim of maintaining an active link between Catalans abroad and Catalonia. They will thus be able to enjoy an organized participation in the reality of their country of origin, have access to instruments that allow contact with the Catalan culture and language, cooperate in the outreach of Catalonia, and have relations with its institutions.
2. The Government encourages any activities organized abroad by institutions, businesses and non-profit organizations that aid and support Catalan emigrants. In the application of the present law, the Government shall guarantee that all actions and initiatives undertaken in any country, and all entities and all actors that participate in or benefit from these actions, comply with the values, principles and standards in force in Catalonia and in the international institutions of reference with regard to human, social, civil and political rights and social and environmental responsibility.

3. The Government provides support and recognition to all the initiatives promoted by Catalans abroad that pursue the general interest of Catalonia and its social, economic, political and cultural enrichment through sponsorship, patronage, fundraising, financing or contributions.
4. The Government recognizes the knowledge and experience of older Catalans abroad who can bear witness to the historical memory.

Article 12. Return to Catalonia

1. According to the specific regulations concerning the return of Catalan emigrants and their descendants, Catalans abroad have the right to access any actions and support measures that are in place when they decide to return to Catalonia to establish residence there.
2. The Government promotes actions that help Catalan professionals who have exercised a profession abroad to integrate in the Catalan labour market. It also promotes actions and measures aimed at the identification and return of Catalan talent in the academic, research, cultural or professional fields in which they have worked abroad.

CHAPTER III. CATALAN COMMUNITIES ABROAD

Article 13. Definition

1. For the purposes of this law, *Catalan communities abroad* are understood to be any associative non-profit entities that are legally constituted in any form recognized by law, and that pursue the goals set by the present law and are recognized in accordance with its provisions.
2. For the purposes of this law, the status of *Catalan communities abroad* is held by federations of Catalan communities abroad and virtual Catalan communities created in order to allow Catalans living abroad to connect and interact with each other and to communicate and cooperate with the Generalitat.
3. For the purposes of this law, the members of Catalan communities abroad may be Catalans living abroad, in accordance with Article 4. They may also be persons residing outside Catalonia who do not have the political status of Catalans but feel connected to Catalonia, its culture, its language and its character as a nation.

Article 14. Support

The Government supports Catalan communities abroad in achieving the following objectives:

- a) Promoting and strengthening Catalan communities abroad, understood as a place for meeting and enjoying the experience of Catalanness for Catalans who have settled in a given geographical area.
- b) Maintaining links between Catalans abroad and Catalonia in order to allow contact and use of the Catalan language, culture and reality in distant places, and to provide information and contact with Catalonia, with its institutions, and with the government initiatives aimed at this group.
- c) The international dissemination of Catalonia, as active agents in Catalan outreach acting in cooperation with Catalan institutions and entities and with local ones in their geographic area.
- d) Consolidating communities as points of reference for the Catalans residing in their geographical area, especially in the social and cultural sphere.
- e) Setting up new communities that act as points of discovery, contact and knowledge of Catalonia.
- f) Preserving and disseminating the historical, documentary and cultural heritage of Catalan communities abroad.
- g) Encouraging the participation of young people who are from Catalonia or are descendants of Catalans, and promoting gender equality, equal treatment and non-discrimination within the communities and their governing bodies.
- h) Promoting relations, interaction and exchange between the various types of Catalan communities abroad.
- i) Providing information, advice and guidance for Catalans who arrive in countries or territories of the State where there are already Catalan communities abroad, and for Catalans who request information before their departure.
- j) Cooperating, when necessary, with Catalans abroad who are in extreme need in order to provide them with extraordinary support and emergency information.

Article 15. Official recognition of Catalan communities abroad

1. Catalan communities abroad may benefit from any services, grants and institutional benefits that are established in accordance with this law when they have previously obtained the recognition of the Government. The requirements and procedure for obtaining recognition will be established by decree.

2. Obtaining the recognition referred to in paragraph 1 requires proof that the community has been set up in accordance with law, that its objectives are in line with the present law, that its structure and functioning are democratic and transparent, and that it has a relationship with Catalonia, with Catalan citizens, or with the history, language, culture or any other aspect of the Catalan reality.

3. The decree regulating the recognition of Catalan communities abroad must also determine the specific provisions applicable to virtual Catalan communities, such as their creation and functioning, the criteria for promoting federations by geographical areas, the procedure for prior consultation of the Council for Catalonia Abroad and the procedure for withdrawing recognition.

Article 16. Withdrawal of official recognition

1. Official recognition is withdrawn in the following cases:

- a) Dissolution of the entity.
- b) Manifest inactivity of the entity for a period of two years.
- c) Failure to comply with the requirements for recognition, especially those referring to democratic and transparent structure and functioning.
- d) Failure to keep the data in the Register of Catalan Communities Abroad up to date, as established by decree.
- e) The entity's own initiative.

2. Withdrawal of official recognition entails loss of the right of access to services and benefits, in addition to the reimbursement of any economic benefits that have been obtained, in accordance with the regulations.

Article 17. Federations of Catalan communities abroad

Recognized Catalan communities abroad may become federations to defend and integrate their interests, facilitate joint and coordinated compliance with their common aims and objectives, and enjoy the services and benefits established by the present law.

Article 18. Virtual Catalan communities abroad

1. The Government fosters networks created through information and communications technology and supports them in order to allow Catalans

abroad to connect and interact and to communicate and cooperate with the Generalitat, in accordance with the objectives established by Article 14.

2. Virtual Catalan communities abroad are recognized in accordance with the provisions of Article 15.

Article 19. The Register of Catalan Communities Abroad

1. The Register of Catalan Communities Abroad is set up as an administrative database of Catalan communities abroad, their federations, and the virtual Catalan communities recognized in accordance with this law. It can also record all the circumstances related to these entities, as determined by decree.

2. The data of the Register will be published through the Transparency Portal of the Generalitat of Catalonia.

3. This Register is assigned to the ministry responsible for foreign action.

4. Recognized Catalan communities must notify the Register of any changes that occur in order to keep the information up to date.

Article 20. Services and benefits

1. The Government supports the Catalan communities abroad, the federations of communities and the virtual Catalan communities entered in the Register by providing services and benefits to the following ends:

a) To provide access to information on any provisions and resolutions that the Government and the Parliament of Catalonia adopt on matters that are specifically recognized as being of interest to Catalan communities and Catalans around the world.

b) To guarantee the same treatment as that received by entities established in the territory of Catalonia with regard to access to cultural heritage, particularly through the reception of bibliographic, audiovisual, computer and teaching collections.

c) To guarantee that they can benefit from governmental action in equal conditions with entities established in the territory of Catalonia.

d) To guarantee that they obtain technical assistance and grants for their functioning and for organizing activities of promotion and dissemination of Catalonia in accordance with the foreign action of the Generalitat.

e) To provide technical assistance and grants to promote actions aimed at knowledge of and research into Catalan language and culture, especially among children and young members of the Catalan community.

f) To provide technical assistance and grants for initiatives aimed at fostering international mobility of Catalans, and to help meet the basic needs of Catalans abroad who are in particularly difficult situations.

g) To foster access to current information on Catalonia through media broadcasting tools and the use of information and communications technology promoted by the Administration of the Generalitat.

h) To promote educational, cultural and economic exchanges for members of Catalan communities through specific programmes of cultural stays, scholarships, summer camps, knowledge stays and temporary return visits to Catalonia, especially for younger and older residents.

i) To provide knowledge of programmes and initiatives promoted by the Administration of the Generalitat in the geographical area where the Catalan communities are established. In the organization of these initiatives, the associative structure formed by Catalan communities abroad must be taken advantage of whenever possible.

j) To facilitate the signing of cooperation agreements with organizations and institutions of the Generalitat for the provision of services or for the exercise of any actions that may be assigned to them.

k) To advise and inform on social, economic and occupational topics of Catalonia, especially with regard to initiatives aimed at or including Catalans abroad.

l) To facilitate the obtaining of bibliographic, audiovisual and dissemination materials, or any similar materials that are prepared by the Generalitat.

m) To allow a dialogue with the Government through the Council for Catalonia Abroad.

n) To promote the proper use of the name, flag and symbols of Catalonia at the headquarters or in any events that are organized.

2. Catalan communities abroad, federations of communities and virtual Catalan communities must have access to grants and subsidies to comply with the objectives of this law, in accordance with applicable law.

CHAPTER IV. THE BODIES FOR RELATIONS WITH CATALAN COMMUNITIES ABROAD

Article 21. The Council for Catalonia Abroad

1. The Council for Catalonia Abroad is the advisory and collegial body for consultation and external participation of Catalans living abroad and Catalan communities abroad.

2. The Council for Catalonia Abroad has the following functions:

a) To advise the Government on the general lines and the objectives of its relations with Catalans and Catalan communities abroad, and on the specific initiatives that it carries out.

b) To draft reports on the state, situation and development of relations of Catalans and Catalan communities abroad with Catalonia, and also to report on the recognition of new Catalan communities abroad.

c) To foster mutual relations between Catalan communities abroad, Catalans abroad, the Government, and the institutions of Catalonia.

d) To propose actions and programmes related to Catalan communities and Catalans abroad.

e) Any other functions that are assigned to it by the legal system.

3. The functioning, organization, composition and assignation of the Council for Catalonia Abroad will be determined by decree. The composition must include, in all cases, the Government bodies responsible for foreign affairs, migration, culture and education; representatives of the organizations, consortia and institutions in which the Generalitat has a shareholding that work in the fields of internationalization and outreach, especially regarding economics, language and culture; and representatives of the Catalan communities abroad and the recognized federations. In appointing the members of the Council that form part of Catalan communities abroad and federations according to democratic principles, a balanced representation of women and men and geographical areas must be sought.

4. Within their advisory and consultative functions, the members of the Council for Catalonia Abroad act as representatives of Catalonia Abroad to the Catalan institutions and must appear before the Parliament of Catalonia when this institution so requires, or at their own request subject to prior approval of the corresponding committee.

5. The Council for Catalonia Abroad is an advisory body of the Government and does not replace any of the structures of representation of its members.

6. The members of the Council representing Catalonia Abroad, in cooperation with the ministry responsible for foreign action, may promote initiatives in relation to other competent public administrations on matters related to Catalans living abroad or the entities through which they are organized, or any other initiatives that they deem of interest.

7. The members of the Council for Catalonia Abroad are appointed for a period of four years, renewable for further periods of four years, with a limitation of two terms and with the exception of ex officio members.

Article 22. Geographic meetings of Catalan communities abroad

According to budget availability, the Government supports initiatives promoted by Catalan communities abroad, their federations and Virtual Catalan communities abroad for organizing events of geographical coordination intended to seek synergies to improve their individual and collective functioning.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

One. Budget allocation

1. The Government provides an annual specific item in the budget of the Generalitat to meet the objectives of this law.

2. The adoption of the measures established by this law is subject to budget availability.

Two. The Conference of Catalonia Abroad

The Government may periodically promote the organization of the Conference of Catalonia Abroad with the aim of spreading knowledge and recognition of the Catalan presence in the world and promoting research and relations between the organizations and people who make up Catalonia Abroad, and between them and Catalonia.

Three. Coordination

To meet the objectives established by this law, the ministry responsible for foreign action assumes the coordination of the sectoral actions that the ministries of the Generalitat carry out and promotes any cooperation that is deemed appropriate with other public administrations of Catalonia.

Four. Cooperation in outreach

The support and outreach measures of the Government of the Generalitat established by this law that are aimed at international promotion of Catalonia by Catalans abroad or by Catalan communities abroad may be carried out by bodies, consortia and institutions working in outreach in which the Generalitat has a shareholding.

Five. Planning in the field of Catalonia Abroad

1. The Government shall incorporate in the strategic plan provided for by Article 15 of Law 16/2014, of 4 December, on foreign action and relations with the European Union, the medium-term priorities and objectives in the fields of relations with Catalan citizens living abroad and Catalan communities abroad.
2. The ministries of the Administration of the Generalitat shall incorporate, in the annual working plans for the development of the current Strategic Plan for Foreign Action and Relations with the European Union, the actions to be carried out in the areas of relations with Catalan citizens living abroad and Catalan communities abroad.

Six. Electoral rights of Catalans abroad

Subject to the provisions of the future Catalan electoral law regarding whether or not to create electoral constituencies abroad, the Government of Catalonia shall guarantee a wide participation of Catalans living abroad in all electoral processes. The Electoral Administration of the Government shall inform citizens living abroad of their electoral rights in all processes in which they are called to participate and shall help the political forces to make their proposals reach residents abroad.

REPEAL PROVISION



PARLAMENT DE CATALUNYA

1. Law 18/1996, of 27 December, on relations with Catalan communities abroad, is hereby repealed.
2. Article 40 of Law 16/2014, of 4 December, on foreign action and relations with the European Union, is hereby repealed.

FINAL PROVISIONS

One. Implementation

The Government, and where appropriate, the ministers responsible for the matter, are authorized to carry out the regulatory implementation of this law.

Two. Entry in force

This law comes into force on the day after its publication in the *Diari Oficial de la Generalitat de Catalunya* (official journal of the Generalitat of Catalonia).