



The President

Mr Roger Torrent i Ramió
President
Parlament de Catalunya

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Dear President Torrent i Ramió,

Thank you for your letter dated 2 August 2019 congratulating me on my election as President of the European Parliament. I share your assessment that the European Parliament, along with the Council and the European Commission, should strive to respond with more courage to the requests of European citizens.

I also took note of your letter of 16 October 2019 in which you inform me about the Spanish Supreme Court's ruling concerning the former President of the Parliament of Catalonia and others.

In response to your concerns about the situation of the three candidates who are unable to take their seats in the European Parliament, as expressed in your letter of 2 August 2019, I wish to inform you that the legal issues related to this matter have been clarified in the meantime by the General Court of the European Union. Indeed, in the Order of the President of the General Court of 1 July 2019 in Case T-388/19 R. *Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó and Antoni Comín i Oliveres v European Parliament*, it is clarified, as regards the role of the European Parliament in this matter, that, in the absence of an official declaration by the Spanish authorities in the sense of the 1976 Elections Act that Messrs. Comín and Puigdemont were elected candidates, there is no scope for the Parliament either to verify their credentials, nor to accord to them, on a provisional basis, a seat in Parliament.

As Parliament has not yet received the necessary formal notification from the competent Spanish authorities as regards the candidates, they are certainly aware of the fact that there is, according to the aforementioned court order, no legal scope for the Institution nor for its President to act.

You will also be aware of the Opinion of the Advocate General of the Court of Justice of the European Union Maciej Szpunar presented on 12 November 2019 in Case C-502/19. The European Parliament has duly taken note of this Opinion and is now awaiting the final ruling of the Court. The Opinion does not prejudice the pending judgment of the Court of Justice.

Yours sincerely,

David Maria SASSOLI