

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 10:17 AM

To: CAB MOEDAS CONTACT

Subject: Statement from the universities and research centres of Catalonia

Carlos Moedas
Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation
European Commission

Dear Commissioner Moedas,

The highest representatives of the universities and research centres of Catalonia (60 institutions, representing around 90% of the university and research community) address you this communication to share with you the formal statement that has been issued regarding the current situation in Catalonia resulting from the actions of the Spanish Government over the last few days.

Statement from the universities and research centres of Catalonia

Today, the highest representatives of the universities and research centres of Catalonia (60 institutions, representing around 90% of the university and research community) have met to assess the current situation in Catalonia resulting from the actions of the Spanish Government over the last few days. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the trade unions and students' associations.

It has been concluded that the good repute of the academic and research institutions of Catalonia has been undermined by their inclusion by the Ministry of Finance and Civil Service in a list of institutions whose budgetary powers have been rescinded and which are, therefore, in the eyes of the Ministry, suspected of being liable to fraudulent behaviour. This list has been communicated to the banks in order to block and assume control of the management of ordinary financial affairs, with no form of direct prior notification to the universities and research centres. These actions are a threat to academic and research activity, including that funded by European Union resources or private funds, and damage both the reputation and the credibility of the institutions at an international level, thereby putting in peril their participation in international projects, and their ability to attract and retain talent.

It is for these reasons that the attending institutions:

- 1. Demand the immediate reversal by the appropriate authorities of the Spanish Government of these extraordinary and unacceptable measures.*
- 2. Will communicate the critical situation created by these actions to the relevant European and international agencies.*

Furthermore, regarding the protests that may take place over the coming days, the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP) has declared that one of the functions of universities is to train highly qualified professionals and at the same time to produce socially responsible and critically thinking citizens. Accordingly, a common policy will shortly be agreed upon to facilitate the participation of students

and teaching, research, and administrative and services staff in the protest actions that take place.

Barcelona, 21 September 2017

It's noteworthy remarkable that Catalan Universities and CERCA centres are managing and coordinating many H2020 and ERC projects. The above cited situation endangers the normal partnership dynamics and payments by coordinators in the H2020 projects and stops the development of the ERC grants.

We claim for your analysis and response in order to contribute reversing this extreme and singular situation in the EU.

Faithfully yours,

Dr. Lluís Rovira

Director of CERCA Institution (Research Centres of Catalonia) <http://cerca.cat/en/cerca-centres/>

Dr. Josep Samitier

President of ACER (Association of Catalan Research Entities) and Director of IBEC
<http://www.acer-catalunya.org/entidades.php?lang=en>

Dr. Jaume Casals

President of ACUP (Association of Catalan Public Universities) and Rector of the Pompeu Fabra University <http://www.acup.cat/en/catalan-public-universities>



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of Commissioner Carlos Moedas
Head of Cabinet

Brussels, 31. 10. 2017
S(2017)5583022

Dear Dr Rovira,

I would like to thank you for your e-mail of 25 September which you sent to Commissioner Carlos Moedas also on behalf of Dr Samitier and Dr Casals.

The Commission has issued an official statement concerning recent developments in Spain available at http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-17-3626_en.htm.

This reply will therefore only focus on the aspects of your letter linked to your projects financed by H2020.

I want to reassure you that the Commission is committed to ensure that beneficiaries of EU-funded research and innovation projects receive the payments due to them in a timely manner and that we are thus following this issue closely.

Our services remain at your disposal for any further support you would need in relation to the implementation of your projects.

Yours sincerely,

António Vicente

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