

European separatists gaining in strength



1. SCOTLAND

United with England, as Great Britain, in 1707. Independence drive growing since SNP won overall majority in Scottish parliament

First Minister Alex Salmond and British premier David Cameron have agreed terms of independence referendum to be held in 2014

Scotland (as national share)

- Population: **5.2m** (8.3% of 62.3m)
- GDP: **£152bn** (10% of £1.52 trillion)

3. BASQUE COUNTRY

Like Catalonia, has own language and distinct culture, but unlike most of Spain's 17 autonomous regions it raises own income and corporate taxes

Pro-independence coalition likely to make big gains in Oct 21 regional elections, one year after militant separatist group ETA renounced violence

Basque Country

- Pop: **2.18m** (4.6% of 47.19m)
- GDP: **€65.4bn** (6.1% of €1.07 trillion)

4. FLANDERS

Autonomous, Dutch-speaking Flemish Region created in 1980, during federalisation of Belgium

Flemish Nationalist Party, region's biggest political force, believes wealthy Flanders should not subsidise Wallonia – poorer French-speaking region in south

Flanders

- Pop: **7.39m** (68% of 10.83m)
- GDP: **€296.6bn** (80% of €368.9bn)



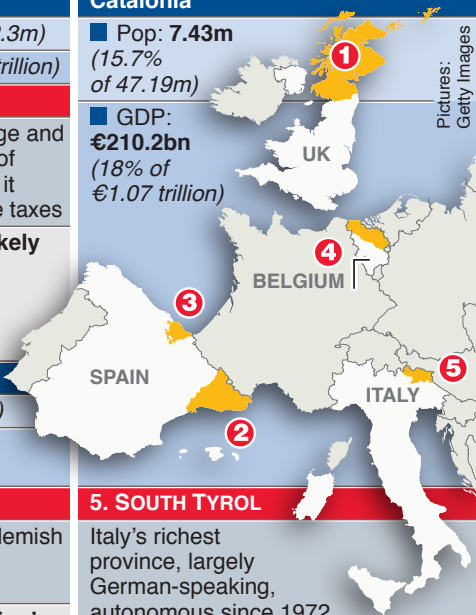
2. CATALONIA

Separatism from Spain fuelled by growing political battle between Barcelona and Madrid amid economic downturn

Catalan president Artur Mas promises independence referendum after regional elections on Nov 25, in defiance of national constitution

Catalonia

- Pop: **7.43m** (15.7% of 47.19m)
- GDP: **€210.2bn** (18% of €1.07 trillion)



Pictures: Getty Images

5. SOUTH TYROL

Italy's richest province, largely German-speaking, autonomous since 1972

Central government wants region to contribute higher proportion of taxes to help resolve Italy's debt crisis, fuelling resentment of Rome

South Tyrol

- Pop: **510,000** (0.8% of 60.6m)
- GDP: **€17.5bn** (1.1% of €1.58tr)