

Catalonia holds potentially defining election

Most Catalans are expected to vote for pro-independence parties in Sunday's election, handing Spain's wealthiest region a mandate to hold a referendum on secession in defiance of the national constitution

CATALONIA FACTFILE

- **Pop:** 7.43m (15.7% of Spain total)
- **Status:** Autonomous community
- **Area:** 32,114 sq km
- **Major languages:** Catalan, Spanish (Castilian)
- **Resources:** Manufacturing, tourism



Artur Mas, Catalan president and CiU party leader, promises referendum within four years

Catalonia GDP: €210.2bn
(18% of Spain's €1.07 trillion)

Catalan government claims it subsidises rest of Spain €16bn a year – equivalent to 8% of regional GDP



CATALAN PARLIAMENT – FORECAST OF SEAT DISTRIBUTION*

(2010 election result in brackets)

