

Catalonia eyes independence referendum

Catalonia is heading for a showdown with the Spanish government over the wealthy industrial region's plan to hold a nonbinding referendum on independence on November 9



COUNTDOWN TO REFERENDUM

- **2006:** Reformed version of Catalonia's autonomy statute, giving regional government greater powers, comes into force
- **2010:** Constitutional Court in Madrid strikes down key provisions of statute in response to complaint by Spanish centre-right People's Party. **Court rules there is no legal basis for recognising Catalonia as nation**
- **Sep 2012:** 1.5m people take part in independence rally in Barcelona
- Spanish Prime Minister **Mariano Rajoy** rejects call by Catalan president **Artur Mas** (right) for greater fiscal independence



- **Nov:** Snap elections held in Catalonia – new Catalan parliament has 107 out of 135 MPs supporting self-determination referendum
- **Jan 2013:** Sovereignty declaration adopted by Catalan parliament
- **Apr 2014:** Spanish parliament votes against transferring referendum powers to Catalonia
- **Sep:** Hundreds of thousands of Catalans form "V" for "vote" along two of Barcelona's main roads calling for their right to vote
- **Sep 27:** President Artur Mas signs decree calling for vote on independence from Spain – central government expected to seek court injunction blocking referendum scheduled for Nov 9