

Explaining Catalonia's independence vote

Catalan President Artur Mas is vowing to press ahead with a symbolic vote on independence on November 9, in defiance of a high court ban




16.1%

Population of Catalonia is **7.51 million** and accounts for **16.1%** of Spain's **46.65 million** citizens (2013)

19%

Catalonia's GDP is **€192 billion** and accounts for **19%** of Spain's **€1.02 trillion** total (2013)



SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE: Catalan separatists say central government bleeds region of tax revenue and fails to respect fully its language and culture

■ **VOTE:** Ballot paper offers two-part question. Vote would determine whether Catalonia maintains status quo, forms state inside Spain, or becomes fully independent

■ **WHAT DOES SPAIN THINK?** Madrid says vote violates Spain's constitution which states that only central government can call referendums on sovereignty

Nov 4: Spain's constitutional court orders Catalan government to suspend planned vote

■ **WHAT DOES CATALUNYA THINK?** Mas pledges to defend Catalans' "right to decide", even if vote has only symbolic significance. **Vote could set up constitutional conflict unprecedented in post-Franco Spain**

■ **WHAT'S NEXT?** Staking his leadership on issue, Mas says snap election could serve as plebiscite on independence

