

Catalonia calls referendum on split from Spain

Catalan president, Carles Puigdemont, has called an independence referendum for October 1, stepping up confrontation with the Spanish government which maintains such a vote is illegal



COLLISION COURSE

■ **2010:** Spain's constitutional court strikes down key terms of Catalonia's autonomy statute

■ **Sep 11, 2012:** 1.5m people take part in independence rally in Barcelona



■ **Sep 20:** Spanish Prime Minister **Mariano Rajoy** rejects Catalonia bid for greater fiscal independence

■ **Nov 9, 2014:** Catalan authorities stage symbolic poll on secession, despite strong opposition from Madrid. More than 80% vote in favour, but turnout is only 40%

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

CATALUNYA: 7.5 million people make up 16% of Spain's population, which accounts for almost 19% of national GDP

■ **Sep 27, 2015:** In regional elections presented as independence plebiscite, pro-sovereignty forces win majority of seats with 48% of popular vote

■ **Mar 2017:** Former Catalan president **Artur Mas** banned from public office for two years over 2014 symbolic vote on independence



■ **Jun 9:** Catalan government sets date for unilateral referendum on Oct 1