
Resolution of the Trade Council ‘Security’

On the situation in Catalonia and Spain in October and November 2017

The European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI) and its member organisations are committed to the active defence of democracy and the rule of law across Europe.

For its part, CESI’s Trade Council on ‘Security’ emphasises the fundamental role of law enforcement officers (local and national police, Guardia Civil) in maintaining security, democracy and respect for the law.

The Trade Council expresses its concern about the incidents that occurred in Spain recently and the situation of tension and harassment that law enforcement officers have been suffering during the last weeks.

The CESI Trade Council on ‘Security’ wishes to highlight that law has been executed according to the mandate given by the Spanish judiciary. Their action is under the control of a justice system in which any citizen can appeal if he or she understands that his or her rights have been violated.

In this regard, the CESI Trade Council on ‘Security’ demands the Spanish Government to ensure legal certainty as well as the respect for the dignity of law enforcement officers in the legal performance of their duty. CESI highlights its concerns that law enforcement authorities cannot be used as shock absorbers or scapegoats within the spheres of political debate. Moreover, CESI Trade Council on ‘Security’ acknowledges the difficult situation in which law enforcement officers in Spain have been placed. Law enforcement work should remain separate from political disputes in order to let law enforcement officers fulfil their constitutional and democratic role. We express strong reservations as to the possible temptation of politicians to use law enforcement as an instrument within political debates. Last but not least, the use of force should always be seen as ultima ratio to secure the internal security, order and the application of the rule of law.