


BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER

MEETING WITH QUIM TORRA, PRESIDENT OF CATALONIA

11 JULY 2018

Key message	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Scottish Government is keen to strengthen our bilateral links with Catalonia.• The Scottish Government supports the right of the people of Catalonia to determine their own future.• We profoundly regret that the Spanish Government has not proceeded by way of dialogue with Catalonia’s political leaders and that the issue is now, instead, subject to a judicial process <p>Ask</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Ask for an update on current Catalan political situation following President Torra’s meeting with Prime Minister Sanchez on Monday.</i>• <i>Whether there are trade or policy areas the Catalans would like to work with us</i> <p>Offer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Offer views on the independence referendum process and Edinburgh agreement, including any lessons learned.</i>• <i>To consider further opportunities for bilateral cooperation.</i> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
What	A meeting to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catalonia. the Spanish political situation, and lessons from Scotland;• Scotland and Catalonia’s bilateral policy and economic relationship
Why	President Torra is in Scotland to meet Clara Ponsati regarding her extradition case. This meeting takes place on Tuesday 10 July.
Who	 <p>Quim Torra, President of Catalonia</p>

	<p>Torra is a lawyer and journalist. He is a member of the Parliament of Catalonia and current President of the Generalitat. Torra does not belong to a political party however has held senior positions in pro-independence organisations including the Òmnium Cultural and Assemblea Nacional Catalana. He was elected to the Parliament of Catalonia at the 2017 election as an independent candidate for the pro-independence Junts per Catalunya electoral alliance and became President after three other candidates were blocked by the Spanish President.</p> <p>N.B. President Torra has drawn criticism, which has been picked up again by press ahead of his visit to Scotland, for previous tweets of an anti-Spanish nature, prior to taking up post, he has since apologised on several occasions for any offence caused by “tweets taken out of context”.</p>
Where	Bute House
When	17.00 on Wednesday 11 July 2018
Likely themes	Catalan political situation; Scottish Catalan bilateral links
Media	Photograph of meeting, social media
Supporting official	[REDACTED], European Engagement Team Leader
Attached documents	<p>Annex A: Catalonia update and SG Position - 9 July</p> <p>Annex B: Edinburgh Agreement process</p> <p>Annex C: T&I Brief</p>

First Minister joint statement with President Torra (issued Wednesday 11 July)

The First Minister of Scotland and the President of Catalonia met at the First Minister's official residence in Edinburgh this evening.

It was a cordial meeting aimed at strengthening the ties of friendship between Scotland and Catalonia. Both leaders discussed the challenging and complex political situation in Catalonia, and agreed that the way forward for Catalonia must be through peaceful and democratic solutions involving dialogue between the Spanish and Catalan authorities, respecting the right to self-determination of the Catalan people.

Both leaders agreed that in 21st century Europe issues of self-determination must ultimately be addressed through democratic referendums. The terms of such referendums should be agreed between both parties and have corresponding international recognition.

The 2014 Scottish independence referendum agreed between Edinburgh and London is the best example of such a process, underlining the fact that issues of constitutional sovereignty should always be resolved through peaceful and democratic means.

Annex A

Catalonia update 09/07/18

- On Monday 9 July, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez met President Torra for the first time, in a move that may indicate a softening of tensions. Sanchez, a Socialist, has taken a less hardline tone on Catalonia than his predecessor Rajoy, whom he replaced in June, but has also made clear he is resolutely opposed to any independence referendum or attempt at secession. It was agreed by both Sanchez and Torra that there will be a further meeting (a positive indicator – however small). According to Torra, the tone of the conversation was ‘constructive, frank and honest’ and there has been an understanding that the Catalan crisis is a political crisis and it has to be dealt with politically. Agreement was reached to reinstate the Bilateral Commission between central government and Catalonia, not used since 2011, the main constitutional body for cooperation between the central government and the Generalitat. They collaborate on affairs that affect Catalonia such as the devolution of certain powers and government functions, and the central government’s budget.
- Sanchez, prior to the meeting had made a gesture of goodwill by moving jailed Catalan separatist leaders closer to home but other concessions are unlikely to be announced on Monday after the meeting at the Prime Minister’s residence in Madrid.
- Ahead of the meeting, Torra briefed the press that he was seeking to use the meeting with Sanchez to promote a Scottish style referendum on Catalan independence and that if the meeting was useful, he would invite Sanchez for a further meeting in Barcelona in September.
- Professor Clara Ponsatí appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Court last week for a Preliminary Hearing where the prosecution explained they will be using the Treason Felony Act of 1848 to facilitate her extradition back to Spain, under the offence of “levying war in the realm.” An eight day hearing will begin on July 30th to determine if Prof. Ponsati should be extradited from Scotland.
- A German court rejected “rebellion” as grounds to extradite Catalonia’s former leader Carles Puigdemont and ordered his release on bail. He could, however, still face extradition on the lesser charge of embezzlement/misuse of public funds. Decisions over these charges have been delayed and the German Courts are expected to give a resolution in the coming weeks.

Scottish Government position on Catalonia:

The Scottish Government supports the right of the people of Catalonia to determine their own future.

- We profoundly regret that the Spanish Government has not proceeded by way of dialogue with Catalonia's political leaders and that the issue is now, instead, subject to a judicial process.
- The fact that our justice system is obliged to act – and will act – in accordance with the law in relation to extradition requests does not change those views.
- Under the Extradition Act 2003, Scottish Ministers have no role in the determination of European Arrest Warrants, and no powers to intervene.
- Our police, prosecution service and courts are rightly independent of Ministers and will enforce and administer the law free from influence or interference.
- It is the right of any individual to defend themselves, to oppose their extradition in the courts and to be legally represented in doing so it is vital that the integrity of this process is protected.

Bilateral links

Scotland and Catalonia are both members of a number of policy related groupings, such as:

- **The Climate Group** and the **Under2 MoU Coalition**, which are initiatives aimed at tackling climate change.
- **Districts of Creativity**, an international network of 13 of the most creative and innovative regions in the world. At the heart of the Network is the recognition that the creative industries are one of the key sectors of the future and we can create a more prosperous world through harnessing the power of creativity.
- **The Vanguard Initiative** is an initiative at the EU regional level promoting new growth through smart specialisation and is driven by a political commitment made by European regions to use their smart specialisation strategy to boost new growth through bottom-up entrepreneurial innovation and industrial renewal in European priority areas.

Annex B

Edinburgh Agreement process:

- For the 2011 Scottish General election the SNP manifesto contained a commitment to hold a referendum on independence
- In the election on 5 May 2011, the SNP won an overall majority of seats in the Scottish Parliament (69 out of 129). It was accepted that if the Scottish Parliament voted for an independence referendum, the UK Government would not stand in its way.
- On 15 October 2012, the Edinburgh Agreement was signed. The Agreement ensured that the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood was able to deliver a referendum that met the highest standards of fairness, transparency and propriety.
- The Agreement set out that legislation for the referendum would be passed in the Scottish Parliament. The governments agreed that the referendum should:
 - have a clear legal base;
 - be legislated for by the Scottish Parliament;
 - be conducted so as to command the confidence of parliaments, governments and people and deliver a fair test and a decisive expression of the views of people in Scotland and a result that everyone will respect
- The section 30 Order was agreed by the Scottish Parliament on 5 December 2012 and the House of Commons on 15 January 2013 and House of Lords on 16 January 2013. The Order came into force on 13 February 2013.
- On 21 March 2013 the Scottish Independence Referendum Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament, setting the conditions for the referendum and for it to be held on 18 September, 2014. The Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 14 November 2013

Annex C

Catalonia T&I Briefing

- SDI has recently recruited 2 new posts, as part of the EU expansion project, to be co-located with DIT in Barcelona and DIT Madrid respectively.
- An SDI F&D specialist has been based in Barcelona since March 2018 and a Trade specialist covering Technology, Life Sciences and Energy sectors has been based in Madrid since January 2018. Both colleagues have a strong focus on Catalonian companies and stakeholders.

Recent SE/SDI engagements with:

- Scotcat (Scottish/Catalan organisation dealing with culture and social events);
- team at ACCIO (Catalan Trade & Investment); and
- British Chamber of Commerce in Barcelona.
- A delegation from ACCIO (Catalonia's Economic Development Agency) - will be traveling to Scotland at the end of the month. The main contact from Scottish Enterprise is Jim Watson, Director of Enterprise and innovation, and the objective to increase collaboration on technology.

Company engagements:

- [REDACTED]

Scottish companies supported by SDI to do business in Catalonia:

- [REDACTED]

Ongoing SDI support to engage with local Pharma companies:

- [REDACTED]

Business opportunities for Scottish companies in Catalonia

- Life sciences is a historical driver of the local economy with a strong pharmaceutical, medtech and biotech company base.
 - Opportunities for Scottish pharma services companies to do business with Catalonian pharma and biotech companies.
 - Opportunities for Catalonian digital health companies to test and develop their technologies and product in Scotland
- Food and Drink
- Technology
 - Smart cities, software development, digital health

Minutes of Meeting between the First Minister of Scotland and the President of Catalonia

Wednesday 11 July 2018, Bute House.

Present: Rt. Hon. Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland
Rt. Hon. Quim Torra, President of Catalonia
Ms Natalia Mas, Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Mr Josep Lluís Alay, Coordinator of the International Policies of the Presidency
Mr Josep Rius, Chief of Staff of the President
Liz Lloyd, Chief of Staff of the First Minister
[REDACTED], Scottish Government
John Somers, Scottish Government
[REDACTED], Scottish Government

Minutes:

The First Minister welcomed President Torra and his colleagues to Edinburgh.

The President and First Minister discussed the challenging and complex political situation in Catalonia. They agreed that the way forward for Catalonia must be through peaceful and democratic solutions involving dialogue between the Spanish and Catalan authorities, respecting the right to self-determination of the Catalan people.

Both leaders expressed a desire to explore economic, trade and cultural opportunities, to further strengthen ties between Scotland and Catalonia. First Minister noted that SDI were already engaging with representatives from Catalonia and that a new post in Barcelona would help to strengthen this work. Ms Mas congratulated the First Minister on the establishment of the Scottish National Investment Bank, she indicated Catalonia would be happy to share its experiences from the establishment of the National Promotion Bank.

The President extended an invite to the First Minister to visit Barcelona, the First Minister indicated she would be delighted to do so.