

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 17 April 2019 09:54
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RV: Letter from the Consul General of Spain
Importance: High

Buenos días [redacted]

Adjunto la carta que remitió el Cónsul ayer al director del periódico The Herald Scotland, con relación al artículo que adjunto. Te agradecería que se la hicieras llegar a tus superiores.

Un saludo,

[Redacted]

Translation: Good morning [Redacted],

I attach a letter that the Consul sent to the director of The Herald Scotland yesterday in relation to the article also attached. I would be grateful if you could pass this on to your superiors.

Regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
P.A. to the Consul General
[Redacted]

Consulate General of Spain
63, North Castle Street, EH2 3LJ, EDINBURGH

De: . [Redacted]
Enviado el: martes, 16 de abril de 2019 11:44
Para: [Redacted]
Asunto: Letter from the Consul General of Spain
Importancia: Alta

Message from the Consul General of Spain:

Dear Director,

Please find attached a letter containing some remarks to a piece of information about the Scottish Independence.

Best regards,
Secretary
[Redacted]

POLITICS DIGEST

Spanish MP says Scotland must join end of EU queue

DAVID LEASK

A SENIOR Spanish politician has once again raised the prospect of vetoing Scottish membership of the European Union.

Conservative Esteban Gonzalez Pons said yesterday his centre-right Partido Popular (PP) would block any application from an independent Scotland if the UK was still negotiating its own exit from the bloc.

Countering widely held views elsewhere in Europe, he said that even if Scotland waited until after Brexit, it would have to wait in a queue behind Turkey and Serbia.

His remarks, made ahead of a general election later this month, mark the latest twist in the PP's vacillating attitude toward Scotland in the EU.

They were made after a series of welcoming statements by other EU politicians, including Belgian Liberal MEP Guy Verhofstadt.

They also follow assurances from Spanish politicians, including PP when in office, that they would not veto an independent Scotland joining the EU, provided sovereignty had been reestablished by constitutional means.

Visiting Spain's North African enclave of Melilla, Mr Pons said the

PP "would veto an independent Scotland from directly entering EU before Brexit".

The MEP appeared to be reacting to a widely shared but three-year-old video of Mr Verhofstadt suggesting a seamless re-entry into the EU for an independent Scotland.

Mr Pons said: "Holding another referendum on independence at the same time as we are negotiating Brexit would even further complicate the UK's internal politics."

"Whatever happens - and I hope that its independence never happens - Scotland will have to get in line, behind Turkey and behind Serbia, to end up as an EU state."

"There is nothing automatic about Scotland getting into the EU, however independent it may be."

The PP is the biggest party in parliament but has lost power to the socialists. It is on track to lose seats but could return to power with the backing of ultra-nationalist Ciudadanos and the newly popular far-right Vox, both of which share the PP's hostility to Catalan independence.

EU leaders have sounded less hostile to Scottish independence since the Brexit vote in 2016. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon previously signalled she would make a call on a second referendum as soon as clarity emerged on Brexit.



■ Guy Verhofstadt suggested Scotland's re-entry would be easy



El Consul General de España

16th April 2019

Mr. Graham Morrison
Director
The Herald Scotland
200, Renfield Street
Glasgow, G2 3QB

Dear director:

I have read today 16th of April in your newspaper, an article concerning a statement made by a member of the Spanish conservative party Mr. Esteban Gonzalez Pons affirming that his party will block the entry of an independent Scotland into the European Union.

In this regard, I would like to make the following points:

1. The Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Josep Borrell has recently declared that Spain will not block Scotland's entry into the European Union if the independence is legally achieved, and such has always been the intention of the Spanish government.
2. The Spanish government has not and never will intervene in the internal affairs of the United Kingdom or any other State and expects the same reciprocal attitude.
3. Entry into the European Union does not depend at all on waiting in a queue like waiting in a shop for your turn to arrive, as stated the former Conservative MP Mr González Pons. The European Union is joined if the economic and political conditions required by all the treaties that regulate it are fulfilled.

Therefore, Mr. director, I would like to make it very clear that Mr González Pons' statement is his and his party's exclusive responsibility and not the Spanish Government at all.

Yours Sincerely


Miguel Angel Vecino Quintana

