



English

Summary of the ERC's Statement of Ideology (Resum de la Declaració Ideològica d'ERC)

Introduction

Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC) is a political organisation that is socially left-wing and nationally Catalan. Its basic political principles are defined in the Statement of Ideology approved at the 19th National Congress in 1993. This is organised into the three areas that give the organisation its name: Esquerra (commitment to social issues), República (commitment to the community) and Catalunya (commitment to the nation).

Esquerra- The Left

As a left-wing party, ERC wants to end social injustices and economic inequalities, while bringing about the fair distribution of wealth and equal access to state welfare services for all. This objective has to be achieved jointly with other agencies such as NGOs and unions within a Catalan framework of labour relations linked to a worldwide one.

Without losing private market initiatives, work has to become a means of personal growth for everyone, with security, full employment and a fair wage. At the same time we must incorporate the all new applications and knowledge of the technological age into all aspects of daily life, to encourage higher productivity and improve the welfare of the worker.

Economic and social progress must be compatible with a healthy society and environment. A new constructive culture and the wise use of resources such as water, energy and raw materials must guarantee sustainable development, for the benefit the whole planet and all its inhabitants and for future generations.

Republica- The Republic

Basic human rights are framed within the concept of republican citizenship. Individual rights are inalienable and so we must educate people in community values and in a non-religious environment in order to guarantee mutual respect. We all – man or woman, heterosexual or homosexual, whether born here or elsewhere, with or without religious beliefs – have the same rights and obligations to become active and responsible citizens. Citizenship should not only depend on one's birthplace, or on the origins of one's parents, but also on a person's will to integrate fully into the host society.

In order to guarantee these rights and preserve the common interest, we need a democracy built on a real separation of the three powers: legislative, executive and judicial. Elections must be by proportional and direct vote. An ethical political model must prevail, one in which the interests of the group come before those of the individual, one in which violence, corruption and speculation in private or public business are eradicated.



Although society is also supported by other social organisations, political parties are the backbone of the democratic system. The democratic model must allow citizens to participate actively, through referenda or their own legislative initiatives as well as periodic elections. Transparent and flexible management, truthful information and closer contact with the people through decentralisation are key issues for good government.

Furthermore, we must always guarantee unity and tolerance, the defence of cultural diversity, participation rather than authoritarianism and full emancipation of the people, including the right to conscientious objection and civil disobedience.

Catalunya (Països Catalans)- Catalonia (The Catalan Countries)

A nation is a community of people linked by land, history, traditions, culture, language and economy, people aware of these links and willing to confirm and respect them. The Catalan identity, as defined by these parameters, corresponds with this definition of a nation. The Catalan countries today make up one of the many nations without a state in a Europe whose frontiers bear little relation to national reality.

The rights of the individual cannot be considered complete if collective rights are not recognised and respected. Therefore, for democratic reasons, the recognition of a nation's rights is the essential condition for the full realisation of individual and collective freedom and for social progress. No foreign nation or state, nor any higher legal entity, has the ability to make decisions for another nation. Thus the Catalan people call for their right to self-determination in a non-violent and democratic manner. In addition, the formation of the Republic of Catalonia is a fundamental necessity, since international law is such that that no territorial organisation is recognised as subject to that law unless it is a sovereign state.

The objective of becoming a sovereign state is to bind together the country in all its aspects and for Catalonia to be able to decide for herself alone her relationships with other societies. With full freedom of action, she seeks cooperation between all cultures on the basis of equality, to avoid any one group dominating another. In addition, she will work together with others for peace in the struggle against all forms of violence, physical or structural. This will be achieved through the gradual demilitarisation and denuclearisation of the world, the establishment of diplomatic negotiation as a means of solving conflicts and the end of the arms trade.