

**Question for written answer P-007380/2014
to the Council (President of the European Council)**

Rule 130

Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE) and Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)

Subject: PCE/PEC - Statement on the political future of Catalonia

On 24 September 2014, the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, stated during an event at Princeton University that democracy should not be used to change borders and that the Spanish Constitution does not allow such referendums to be held.

The form of conflict resolution promoted by the EU, in line with its founding values, is based on dialogue and democracy. On the basis of political will and understanding, the EU has always supported and respected peaceful causes that respect human rights.

The citizen's right to be consulted is enshrined in the Spanish Constitution. It is the Spanish Government that has decided to prevent a referendum from being held in Catalonia.

1. Is the President aware of the many border changes that have been made in Europe using democratic methods? Is the President aware of the nature of the process in Catalonia, which is based on democratic principles with the backing of a popular majority that rejects hate and confrontation? Should the Council not take a neutral stance on this consultation?
2. What peaceful, reasonable method does the President propose in order to settle the territorial claims in question other than the popular vote advocated by the *Colectivo Socializa* – the people involved in the political process in Catalonia?