

# A new tax structure for a new country

**W**e, the Catalan people, want our own state. And, as in any modern state, tax collection is a core structure because it catalyses the existence of other basic structures, such as social security, education, culture, and so on.

The Catalan government, following the mandate put forth by the current statute of autonomy, has begun to build this structure. To this end, it signed an agreement with the various Catalan provinces in order to build the Catalan tax administration. Today, branches of this new institution are to be found in the main Catalan towns.

Within the Catalan National Assembly (ANC) we have discussed how, from civil society, we can foster the creation of this new institution. Therefore, we have created the campaign *Declara't a Catalunya* (Make your tax return to Catalonia), within the framework of fiscal sovereignty. In the 21st century, data collection is the single most important element for any tax administration. The current Spanish tax system is based on self-assessment. Citizens, companies, administrations and institutions prepare the statements and

make the payments.

Thus, in D+1, Catalan citizens and companies will have to change who they pay taxes to. With this initiative, we plan to anticipate future issues by proposing to deliver to Catalonia a copy of all our tax return statements made to the Spanish tax department.

The procedure is simple: submit and pay your tax returns to the Spanish tax administration and then, deliver a copy to the Catalan tax administration as well. You can submit various kinds of statements: income tax, VAT, corporate tax, and so on. You can also submit informative statements.

This can be done personally by following the instructions on the *declarat.assemblea.cat* website. And, regarding the 2013 tax return campaign, it can also be submitted online through the web *tributs.cat*. First of all, in order to keep tabs on who is uploading the information, you must identify yourself through a digital signature or by personally requesting an access code at any branch of *tributs.cat*. Afterwards you will be allowed to upload the tax income program (PADRE), or a PDF copy of your

tax return after being submitted, or by verifying the secure verification code (CSV) that appears in the cover of all declaration forms to the Spanish tax administration. Being a voluntary, there is no deadline.

The aim of *Declara't a Catalunya* is threefold. Firstly, we want to make society aware of the importance of having our own tax administration based on a relationship between citizens and a government that is very different from the current one. Secondly, we wish to support and push the Catalan government's legitimate aspiration to build its differentiated state structure. And finally, to exhibit the resources on which future independence will be declared. We also wish to send a message to the Spanish government, stating that Catalans want to decide.

The citizens of Catalonia filled Barcelona's streets on September 11, 2012. The following year we formed a 400-km human chain across our country. Now, we are going to do what no other citizen group has done in history: voluntarily deliver our taxes to the state. The road to stop paying to Spain and instead, paying to Catalonia begins here.

## GALLERY

TERRY PARRIS writer

# To thine own self be true

**T**his above all – to thine own self be true’ “Shakespeare may have said it”, thought Sue, “but it’s not so easy in everyday life. The problem I have is whether I should report my neighbour’s fifteen-year-old son for stealing in the supermarket”.

On Saturday Sue had been standing in the queue for check-out with her two-year-old son, David, sitting on the trolley. He had made a quick grab for some sweets on the shelf nearest him. In putting them back Sue had seen Sean (her neighbour’s son) just behind her, slipping a large slab

of chocolate into his jacket pocket.

“Thanks, but no thanks,” had said Liz her neighbour, “it’s awfully kind of you to offer your help but Sean will do the supermarket shopping. He’s such a good boy.”

This was a dilemma. Should Sue tell him to put the chocolate back?

“Sweets, sweets, I want sweets” shouted David. “When we get home” Sue pacified him. She turned round and said very quietly to Sean “Put the chocolate back. I saw you take it.” “I didn’t” replied David, “I’m getting Mum’s groceries. Why don’t

you mind your own business!” Extra quietly, Sue insisted, “Well, Sean, put the chocolate in your trolley, not in your pocket.”

“Sweets, sweets!” shouted David, “I want sweets”. Several ladies in the queue looked accusingly in Sue’s direction. “Sean, if you don’t put it back in your trolley I’ll tell the check-out girl.”

But of course, Sue didn’t. Sean’s mother was her best friend and ill. Did it matter if one bar of chocolate was stolen? Perhaps Shakespeare was generalizing?

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*"An independent Catalonia would be easily conquered by organised crime and terrorism."*

Jorge Fernández Díaz, Spanish Interior Minister

If this is your idea of seducing Catalans into stay in Spain, I'm afraid that you're just increasing the popular support for independence, Mr. Fernández.