

## **The Catalan Association of Journalists strongly condemns the intervention of TV3 and Catalunya Ràdio and describes it as an unprecedented attack on freedom of expression and information**

October 21, 2017

Col·legi de Periodistes de Catalunya (the Catalan Association of Journalists), a public law corporation that gathers more than 4,000 professionals, strongly condemns the intentions announced by the Spanish Government, with the support of other opposition parties, to take direct control of the public media (TV3, Catalunya Ràdio and ACN - news agency) pursuant to Article 155 of the Constitution.

Col·legi de Periodistes de Catalunya considers that intervening the public media owned by Generalitat de Catalunya (the Catalan Government) is an unprecedented direct attack on democracy and freedom of expression, a fundamental right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and intolerably and inadmissibly questions the professionalism of TV3 and Catalunya Ràdio. In addition, the intervention of TV3 and Catalunya Ràdio is also a violation of the right to information, a basic pillar for democracy, since these media are unequivocal information points of reference for Catalan society. As Col·legi de Periodistes de Catalunya warned a few weeks ago, no situation, however exceptional, has to be a step backwards to freedom of expression or information.

To all this, information professionals can not be subject to guidelines of any kind that limit the freedom of the press and this intervention of the Spanish Government puts at risk and questions the journalistic independence regulated by the Code of Ethics of Col·legi de Periodistes de Catalunya, the Professional committees of TV3, Catalunya Ràdio and ACN and the governing bodies of the Catalan Audiovisual Media Corporation which reports to the Parliament of Catalonia.

In these difficult times, Col·legi de Periodistes de Catalunya, which for two decades has a very active Working Group on Public Media, wants to recognize the professional work of the TV3 and Catalunya Ràdio newsrooms and stands next to the professional committees of these media to defend the return to the legal system of Catalonia, which regulates them.

Finally, Col·legi de Periodistes de Catalunya regrets that the Spanish Government has promoted the most direct attack that Catalonia's self-government has undergone, through the application of Article 155 of the Constitution, which de facto suspends the autonomy covered in this same Constitution and the Autonomy Statute of Catalonia.