

CONSTITUTION DAY DECEMBER 6, 2022

Members of the Municipal Corporation National, Autonomous and Provincial Deputies. Civil authorities and members of the Armed Forces and State Security Forces and Bodies. Queens of our FMP, Courts of Honor, representatives of festive, socio-economic, neighborhood and cultural entities and associations. Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning, molt bon dia to tots. Today we celebrate the forty-fourth anniversary of our Magna Carta. Forty-four years in which the political form of the Spanish State is the parliamentary monarchy; where the Spanish Constitution governs, which is based on the indissoluble unity of the Spanish Nation, the common and indivisible homeland of all Spaniards; nation where the Armed Forces have the mission of guaranteeing the sovereignty and independence of Spain, defending its territorial integrity and constitutional order; and State in which the King is the Head of State, symbol of his unity and permanence, after having sworn to uphold and make uphold the Constitution common to all Spaniards. The Spanish Constitution of 1978 is each time, although not with fewer difficulties, closer to equaling, with the intention of surpassing, what was our longest-lived constitutional text to date, that of 1876, in force until 1923. Let us remember that it sought stabilization of political life and the trust that is required in any constitutional Monarchy: that the Government has the parliamentary trust.

Perhaps some want to forget that, at the end of November 1975, Spain crossed a Rubicon of hope to the begin to develop a new political system –monarchy parliamentary - in which the State is represented by the King -as Head of State-, the Government elected by the Parliament and Parliament elected by the people. Thus, when the Regency Council assumed, in a transitory, the functions of the Head of State, Spain changed, beginning a magnanimous effort of generosity -of both- inaugurating a process called Transition for, in pursuit of a normalization democracy, guarantee the future of coexistence, peace and progress that has brought us to today. That stage, valued throughout the world as exemplary, we must vindicate and honor it, because it led us to decide and approve a text in a referendum, which we are celebrating today and which establishes the existence of three powers: the executive with the King and the Government, the legislature with the Spanish Parliament made up of Congress and the Senate and the judiciary in which, as in all modern democracies, judges choose judges.

This date should also be considered as the tribute of the new generations of Spaniards to the men and women who opted for coexistence, reconciliation, harmony and consensus based on respect to democratic pluralism in our country.

Constitutions are not approved for a single generation, are endorsed with a vocation of perpetuity; this issue is not new, since it has been addressed from the XIX century and the Magna Cartas are maintained. No one has voted the Civil Code, which originally started in 1889 and remains in force; yes, with the reforms that have been done all this time.

Almost nine out of ten Spaniards who went to vote supported it in the referendum on the Constitution. The principles and values that make up the social State and democratic rule of law have no choice if we want to continue living in democracy: freedom, justice, equality, political pluralism. Today, our Magna Carta continues with the strength of the first day.

For this reason, it is worth highlighting the versatility of our constitution and its ability to respond and adapt to the different circumstances that arise in these forty-four years of Spanish history; its validity allows us to affirm, emphatically, that our Constitution is in top form to continue serving Spain during a long time.

It is true that, among other specific issues, the current and agreed regional model is imprecisely drawn by the 1978 Constitution: identity and facts differentials of those who make up the national mosaic, the possible reform of the Senate, a new distribution of competences between the State and the CCAA, giving input to municipalism, but these issues will only be possible to address them successfully if they are, in turn, the result of a symbol of democratic normality: dialogue.

Democracy implies the vocation for dialogue as an ethical value of politics and as a method to achieve consensus. Dialogue is essential to democracy; allows communication, knowledge, understanding, empathy and agreements, which in these cases would be desirable by a vast majority.

Having stated this, ladies and gentlemen, on this day, proceed pointing out that what perhaps we really need now in Spain, is to reinforce the protection of the constitutional order against those who using the institutions and the laws seek to weaken our Constitution, thereby weakening the value of our democracy.

Therefore, it is obligatory to claim that attempts to alter it outside the legal channels have, in accordance with the Constitution and the Law, a strong response, given the importance of our Magna Carta for everyone and for our coexistence.

Despite this, it is to be expected that, as I said, the present difficulties we suffer can be overcome with the same spirit and will of consensus that illuminated the birth of our Constitution: The future is only fruitful if it draws a horizon of concord.

Thus, today we must also value the great historical lesson that for Spanish society represented the approval of the Spanish Constitution of 1978, not having to forget in this commemoration the effort carried out then with a commendable desire for dialogue, consensus and respect for plurality. And it is such the burden of plurality of our Constitution that it protects the legality of political parties and organizations whose objective and reason for being - fighting the foundation of the Spanish Constitution requires us to defend it.

For this reason and in view of this reality, celebrating the Day of the Constitution this morning in Benidorm, and before facts that can only be described as extremely serious, it proceeds claiming sense of state.

In theory, the State -political and legal organization- arbitrates life in society fleeing from sectarian interests and it is the government to which the activity of the State is entrusted exercising power.

Confusing State and Government annuls the representation of the citizenship and the division of powers -executive, legislative and judicial-, which is the basic organization of a State of Law, as Montesquieu pointed out "There is no freedom, if the power to judge is not separated from the legislative and executive power".

Ladies and Gentlemen: Today, in this institutional plenary session, we proclaim that Benidorm feels identified with the values and principles that frame our Magna Carta, reaffirming our commitment to the Constitution of 1978, as well as the firm will of the people of Benidorm to live in peace and democracy to better face the challenges futures in pursuit of a more just society; where ethics, respect for others, tolerance, solidarity, justice, responsibility, equity, friendship, freedom and honesty preside over our daily work.

And given the solemnity of the day, it is difficult for Benidorm find a better occasion to grant and deliver his main organic distinction: the Corporate Medal of the city.

On this occasion, posthumously as a sincere tribute to who was mayor of Beniardá, within the well-known as "water crisis", in 1978: César Vicedo Bou. At that time, César Vicedo Bou, who left us last November, was decisive in solving the problem of water supply to Benidorm. Beniardá City Council, under his presidency in plenary session on August 28, 1978, at the culminating moment of the period of maximum drought, allowed the prospecting of wells in Beniardá, ensuring the supply to Benidorm.

His disinterested action allowed, on 24 March 1979, enough water from those wells to give us life and, saving the model and the tourist brand, translate a very efficient water policy that today has, in the Marina Baixa Water Consortium and the networks of collection, treatment and distribution of water in the region, an exemplary management model, placing Benidorm now as an international benchmark for the management of such a precious resource.

With this Corporate Medal, Benidorm City Council makes institutional recognition and public tribute to whom, in addition and after this fact, was the first democratic mayor of Beniardá, in this already long stage born with the Constitution of 78: between 1979 and 1983, first, and then being re-elected in 1999 and until 2011.

The generosity and, evidently, the courage, of that action led in Beniardá by its mayor, César Vicedo Bou, added to the determination and dedication -the need was obvious – of the mayor of Benidorm, Rafael Ferrer at that time.

Meliá, present here today, together with the ingenuity and effort of those who made it possible, allowed the perforation of the largest aquifer in the Marina Baixa.

Vicedo Bou was a great public servant; a man proud of this land, a good man, with a small body, but with a huge heart: "I would do the same thing over and over again",

César said. "A neighboring town had a hard problem, and the solution could be in Beniardá. How decline?". That absolutely disinterested gesture has had several municipal recognitions. But today, in this great commemoration, this Town Hall, representative of the Town of Benidorm, wants to testify his recognitio with the highest award to whom, with enormous

courage and generosity, made the agreement possible that allowed to obtain water from the subsoil of its town, Beniardà.

Benidorm cannot and should not forget people like César Vicedo. His work and his memory of remain, and Benidorm and Benidorm will be grateful forever.

With this recognition we want to show our respect and our memory.

Ending this act, I also want to transfer our recognition and encouragement to all those whose mission guarantee the enjoyment and exercise of our rights, enshrined in the constitutional text: to life, freedom, security, physical and moral integrity, honor, equality before the law, health, education and many others.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our Constitution turns 44 years today. And during these years it has been contributing in a decisive way to the construction of our model of coexistence that, based on the dignity of the human being and in citizen commitment, we enjoy nowadays.

Let us celebrate the day, and renew our commitment with the Magna Carta.

Congratulations, thank you very much for your attention and Happy Contitution Day.