

Major global trends of a world in transformation

CATALONIA FOREIGN ACTION PLAN

Working paper

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The Catalonia Foreign Action Plan is a project promoted by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Government of Catalonia that has been entrusted to the organization Patronat Catalunya Món.

The creation of the Plan is directed by Santiago J. Castellà, Lecturer in Public International Law and International Relations and Vice-Rector of Foreign Relations of Rovira i Virgili University. The members of the technical management team are Josep Manuel Barberà, director of Patronat Catalunya Món, M. Àngels Prats, head of the Prospecting Area, Anna Estrada, head of the International Area, Rosa Navarro and Gerard Segú, technical staff, of Patronat Catalunya Món.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has engaged Patronat Catalunya Mòn to draw up the Catalonia Foreign Action Plan, a political instrument for the strategic planning of the overall foreign actions of the Government of Catalonia. The aim of this Plan is to increase and improve the coordination of the different policies and players involved in Catalonia's foreign action, so that they can become a real driving force for the internationalization of Catalan society, its economic, business, university and intellectual fabric, entities and social agents, and of the country as a whole.

This project has commenced with a clear intention to be transversal and to integrate the contributions of all the players who have a role in the country's foreign action and internationalization. With this aim, a number of initiatives for debate, reflection and exchange have been started in order to obtain a document reflecting the greatest possible consensus and creating sound intellectual bases for the future.

One of these initiatives is a series of working sessions especially intended to conduct an in-depth analysis of some of frameworks and key issues for this Plan. This paper is the result of the first of these working sessions, which brought together leading speakers with the aim of defining major trends of the present and for the future in this global world in which we live and determining the role that Catalonia can play in it.

Here you will find a synthesis of the matters discussed and reference information. I hope that it will be useful to you and contribute new elements of analysis and about Catalonia's position in the world.

Roser Clavell i Soldevila

Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of the Catalan Government
Secretary General of Patronat Catalunya Mòn

Programme

Casa Asia, Av. Diagonal, 373, Barcelona

18th February 2009

Major political trends in contemporary international relations

- **The transformations of power in the international system**

FRED HALLIDAY, professor of the London School of Economics and ICREA research professor at the IBEI.

- **Current and future prospects of the United States under President Obama**

JOAN RAMON RESINA, director of the Iberian Studies Programme, Stanford University.

- **Political implications of contemporary globalization**

JOSEP IBÁÑEZ, lecturer in International Relations, Pompeu Fabra University.

- **New security standards and new forms of armed conflict**

RAFAEL GRASA, lecturer in International Relations, Autonomous University of Barcelona.

- **The political challenges of the increase in poverty and inequality in the world**

NOÉ CORNAGO, lecturer in International Relations, University of the Basque Country.

- **The new world disorder**

CARLOS TAIBO, lecturer in Political Science, Autonomous University of Madrid.

- **Debate and conclusions**

Moderator and chair: CATERINA GARCIA, lecturer in International Relations, Pompeu Fabra University.

Major economic trends in a global world

▪ Introduction

RAMON TORRENT, director of the International WTO/Regional Integration Chair and professor of political economics, University of Barcelona.

▪ International prospecting: the experience of the Foreign Market Observatory (OME)

MAITE ARDÈVOL, director of the OME (ACC1Ó).

▪ A global view from sub-state bodies

PIERRE S. PETTIGREW, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Canada and international executive adviser at Deloitte & Touche LLP.

▪ Catalonia in the major economic trends in a global world

JOAN TUGORES, professor international economics of the University of Barcelona and adviser to the OME.

▪ Debate and conclusions

Moderator and chair: RAMON TORRENT, director de International WTO/Regional Integration Chair land professor of political economics, University of Barcelona.

Main ideas of the working session

In the context of the work aimed at drawing up the Catalonia Foreign Action Plan, Patronat Catalunya Mòn organized a working session with the aim of promoting an in-depth analysis of the major trends in the world at present and identifying possible future scenarios. This reflection should allow us to provide the context for the role of Catalonia in an increasingly heterogeneous and global world, and at the same time, provide a suitable framework for the proposals that are to guide the foreign action of the Government of Catalonia.

The speakers and participants were invited to debate on the international context in which Catalonia has to consider its future role. Complexity and uncertainty underpin this current international context, with new scenarios that not long ago would have been unthinkable, and as was pointed out, the global crisis which affects this panorama is an unprecedented economic and financial, political and institutional crisis, and also a crisis of climate and population and even a crisis of models and values.

Despite the consensus view that the heart of the international system is still led by states, a certain margin for action by new players has become evident, who have joined the international arena with their own voice. This has entailed a growing loss of centralism of the state in the international system, both at a suprastate level, with its participation in international organizations of integration, and at infrastate level, with the growing international action of different sub-state entities.

In the course of the debate, a «certain world disorder» was mentioned, with the emergence of new threats that transcend traditional state boundaries and the appearance of new public and private players that erode the classic patterns of behaviour of states. In this process of loss of autonomy of the state, there has been a silent transfer of responsibility and political influence to figures of society, such as private economic agents and transnational social movements.

The experts indicated that, despite the appearance of these new players, government and state or sub-state political authorities that have legislative, social and political authority, are best placed to face up to the challenges of globalization. Private players on the new international stage have neither the democratic representative status nor the accountability that would be desirable for the articulation of the collective responses to the challenges of the new international order.

The globalization and de-regulation that have arisen as a result of neoliberal policies in recent decades have also generated global risks such as climate change, massive migratory movements, a deepening of the North/South divide, international crime and global crises that show how the current development model has become obsolete, together with the introduction of a new concept of human security in light of new forms of conflict. In this regard, all the experts agreed that the traditional solutions have become obsolete in the face of current problems and that innovative and global approaches and responses need to be devised.

The experts were unanimous in their opinion that we are at the beginning of a new era, inaugurated with the recently commenced presidency of Barack Obama leading the USA. An era noted for a new style and a new ethical reference that renew confidence, a clear declaration in favour of multilateralism, a growing role for emerging economies, particularly the Asian economies, and a new form of government, with the return of the state's role of political centralism.

It should also be noted that there has been a shift in the international centre of gravity from the Atlantic towards the Pacific making it necessary to reconsider the roles of the leading world players. During the debate, a role equivalent to that of ancient Greece was suggested for Europe, and a call was made to learn from other realities as a benchmark for defining new development models.

In this context, some of the challenges facing Catalan society in this new complex and uncertain scenario were pointed out.

The world is now polycentric and knowledge-based. Talent is now diverse and dispersed. New forms of production and differentiated centres are appearing. Efficiency, always necessary, is no longer sufficient. Traditional trade of goods is now centred on specialization by tasks. Knowledge, formerly an internal asset, now goes far beyond organizations themselves. What could formerly be internationalized, now follows different patterns, notably talent, knowledge, training, technology... **In particularly difficult times, talent, creativity and innovation, key elements in our future role, have to be nurtured, encouraged and attracted.**

Right now, Catalonia is both a political and economic centre and is well-placed to take advantage of the opportunities of internationalization of its social and economic fabric and of knowledge-generated structures if it acts clearly and directly with the support of the Government. At the current time of crisis, **the Government's drive is fundamental in order to maintain and assure the options of internationalization of companies and social organizations.**

Catalonia has to take advantage of the shift in the centre of power towards emerging economies and **opt for a model that reinforces the role of** multiple players that are not visible on the international front line: the so-called "hidden champions". The time of the flagship corporations —the "big champions"— is past and the constant, silent and discreet work of a solvent and innovative business fabric must be encouraged.

In this regard, there was general consensus on the **need for Catalonia to redirect its political agenda** giving priority to the improvement of the quality of human capital, social cohesion and development policies.

Finally, it has to be concluded that, although the international system continues to be marked mainly by the action of states, there is no denying the emergence of other players that are not subject to the rigidity of classic international relations based on the symbolic defence of sovereignty and territory. Players that, like Catalonia, seek to adjust their potential to the international arena using more dynamic forms of paradiplomacy aimed at the economic promotion of its business fabric, leading interrelations in the knowledge generation, at accompanying its society's wish for

internationalization. Faced with the apparently limited margin of influence that Catalonia currently has in the international political and economic context, efforts must be made to reflect and determine what areas and sectors are our priority and how it can be a pioneer, in order to find its position internationally.

**Technical team of the Catalonia Foreign Action Plan
co-ordinated by Dr Santiago J. Castellà, lecturer in Public International Law
at Rovira i Virgili University.**

Speakers

Caterina Garcia

Doctor in Political and Administrative Science from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, holder of a degree in Education Sciences from the University of Barcelona and Information Sciences from the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

She is currently a lecturer in Public International Law and International Relations at Pompeu Fabra University.

She has published several studies on the foreign action of Catalonia and other sub-state entities.

Fred Halliday

Holder of a doctorate from the London School of Economics and since April 2008 ICREA research professor at IBEI, the Barcelona Institute of International Studies.

He is of Irish origin and is a specialist writer on international relations and the Middle East, with particular reference to the Cold War, Iran and the Arabian Peninsula.

Joan Ramon Resina

Holder of a degree in English Philology from the University of Barcelona and currently lecturer of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Stanford University.

From 1997 to 2006 he was a lecturer in the Department of Romance Studies and of the Department of Compared Literature at Cornell University.

Josep Ibáñez

Holder of a doctorate in International Studies from Pompeu Fabra University and a master's degree in Political Science from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Holder of a degree in Political Sciences and Sociology and in Translation and Interpreting from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. He also holds a degree in Modern Languages from West of England University.

He is currently a lecturer in International Relations at Pompeu Fabra University.

Rafael Grasa

Holder of a doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Barcelona and lecturer on International Relations at the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

He has published several books and articles on international theory, global environmental negotiations, resolution of conflicts, research for peace and development cooperation policies.

Noé Cornago

Holder of a doctorate in Political Science and Sociology and holder of a degree in Information Sciences. He is currently a lecturer in International Relations at the University of the Basque Country – Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea and director of studies for the master's degree in Decentralized International Co-operation: Peace and Development, at the same university.

He is the author of several publications on the theory of international relations, transformations of diplomacy, multilateralism and international development.

Carlos Taibo

Lecturer in Political and Administrative Science at the Autonomous University of Madrid where he has also directly the programme of Russian Studies of the Institute of Sociology of New Technologies.

He is the author of twenty books, mostly concerning the transitions in contemporary Central and Eastern Europe.

Ramon Torrent

Professor of Political Economics at the University of Barcelona.

He is currently the director of the WTO Law Chair (UB-WTO-Chamber of Commerce of Barcelona) and director of the Globalization Observatory (UB-Parc Científic de Barcelona). Since January 2005 he has been the coordinator of the Observatory of relations between the EU and Latin America.

He has published several articles and chapters of books on regional integration in Europe and America and has also participated in different regional projects and activities of the BID, the European Commission, the WTO and the UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

Maite Ardèvol

Holder of a degree in Business Administration and Management from ESADE, and a master's degree in International Management from the HEC (Jouy-en Josas, Paris), an MBA from ESADE and CEMS Master's degree.

She has spent fifteen years in the strategic management of international areas and accompanying businesses in their internationalization processes at ACCIÓ CIDEM/COPCA. Since 2005 she has headed the prospecting unit of this organization, the Foreign Market Observatory (OME).

Pierre Pettigrew

Holder of a doctorate in Law from the University of Warwick (United Kingdom).

He has a distinguished career in both the private and public sector. He has held on different occasions the post of Minister in successive governments in Canada, such as Minister of Foreign Affairs between July 2004 and February 2006.

He is currently International Executive Adviser at Deloitte & Touche LLP.

Joan Tugores

Holder of a degree in Law and a doctorate in Economic Sciences.

He has been a lecturer on Economic Theory at the University of Barcelona since 1977 and professor since 1986.

He is the author of several publications in the areas of international economics and globalization. He regularly publishes articles in the press, notably in *La Vanguardia*, *Expansión* and *Món Empresarial*.



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