



JOSEP GUINOVART. *L'ECLIPSI*, 1982. GALERIA JOAN PRATS

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EDITORIAL

Jordi Pujol's breathtaking international activity since 1980, when he was first elected president of the Catalan government, has been a decisive contribution to making Catalan politics and culture known all over the world. The president's journeys have as their chief objective to promote economic relations, establish co-operation agreements and join in the great international debates. The Spanish Constitution of 1978 reserves basic powers in international politics for the central government. Jordi Pujol has always respected this principle and co-ordinates as necessary with the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Spanish embassies in the countries he visits. In a multinational state like Spain, international activity has been directed in such a way as to adequately reflect the range of peoples, cultures and languages. Jordi Pujol's presence abroad is the best possible expression of true recognition of plurality.

Catalan society has a long tradition in international relations. The great ideological and aesthetic movements of Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have been present in the Catalan cultural area, just as they have anywhere else, and many Catalans have played a part in international initiatives. The Catalan economy has a considerable European and, recently, global dimension. For these reasons, international relations are perfectly integrated in the life of individuals, associations, businesses and universities in Catalonia. The Catalan government, in the spheres in which it has power, has many international connections. One of the most obvious exponents of these relations is the exemplary activity of the International Commission of the government's Department of Culture, which each year organises a talk in which fifty of the world's most respected intellectuals and artists take part.

Local authorities, industry, trade, the universities and cultural organisations are also very active internationally. The Catalan Federation of Internationally Recognized Organizations (FOCIR), presented a few weeks ago in Barcelona, represents the Catalan non-governmental organisations that are full members of their respective internationals. They include cultural, sports, leisure and professional organisations. The new Federation wants to publicize the international projection of the countries of Catalan culture by the civil society.

Our world is becoming more and more interdependent. International relations must as their prime objective encourage joint action by all peoples and cultures to resolve global problems: population growth, poverty and dependence, environmental threats and the persistence of war. At the same time, international relations must serve to positively value cultural and national diversity. All cultures, languages and peoples, without exclusion, contain treasures which must be made available to the others in harmony. Cultural intercommunication, carried on in peace, is a great experience of joy and humanism.

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