

OPINION: WHEN MAS TALKS ABOUT INTEGRATION, WHAT DOES HE MEAN?



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WHAT THE PAPERS SAY: PUTIN SNUBS EU OVER HUMAN RIGHTS, OIL AND GAS



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OPINION POLLS STEP UP ACTIVITY AS ELECTION DAY APPROACHES

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THE LAST POST

Catalonia needs its own foreign office

Catalonia needs a foreign office to promote its image as a country on an international level, and to ensure success when European policies are planned and coordinated. Under Jordi Pujol's long presidency in the Generalitat and, to a lesser extent, during the problematic mandate of Pasqual Maragall, Catalonia has skillfully managed to make up for its scarce institutional resources at an international level. It is no easy task for a stateless nation to present itself on the international stage. That's why the Catalan government should create a ministry of foreign and overseas affairs, under the management of the presidency, or the first minister, should one exist. Notwithstanding the political affiliations of the actual government, the country's institutions must be given powerful promotion mechanisms. This has obviously occurred to all of Catalonia's political parties, as ERC, CiU and ICV-EUiA all include the creation of such a ministry in their programs, while the PSC simply makes reference to it, while stopping short of deeming it necessary. And the PP obviously don't want to hear anything about such an idea.



SAÛL GORDILLO, journalist
www.saul.cat

CYBERSURVEYS

Telenotícies

www.telenoticies.cat

Do you think the "housing bubble" will burst and the house prices stabilise?

Yes (54.65 %)

No (43.35 %)

La Vanguardia

www.lavanguardia.es

Will Barça be as successful as last season?

Yes (75 %)

No (10.3 %)

Even more so (13.6 %)

Don't know (1.1 %)

e-notícies

www.e-noticies.com

Who won the TV3 debate?

Artur Mas (42 %)

José Montilla (4 %)

Josep-Lluís Carod-Rovira (43 %)

Josep Piqué (7 %)

Joan Saura (4 %)

El Periódico

www.elperiodico.cat

Would you reduce your income if it would help the Third World?

Yes (61 %)

No (39 %)

THE COMING WEEK

- On October 26, the by-pass of the third runway at El Prat airport will take place, to reduce noise levels.
- On Saturday, October 28, the Premis Octubre will be presented in Valencia.
- On Saturday the Barcelona Jazz Festival begins with a free concert at the cathedral by the Felix Rossy and Llibert Fortuny Big Band. The Festival and on December 5.
- Tuesday, October 31, is Halloween. Bars and discos will be filled with bats and vampires.
- On October 31, Barça play their return match against Chelsea in the champions league.
- On Wednesday, November 1, Catalan elections will be held.

CARTOON OF THE WEEK



By Ferreres, in El Periódico, 20/10/06

A woman representing electoral abstention is shown being shouted at by all five candidates, who try to get her to vote. However, all five fail, as Joan Saura notes: "It seems that the more we insist, the fatter she gets." Montilla promises to pay her rent, an audiphone and a chiropodist, while Mas offers a DVD against the tripartite.

THE EXCLUSIVE



Young people go chat crazy

The front page of Sunday's Avui featured a report that reveals that in Barcelona, young people use the Internet too much, especially the Chapmans, with an average of 16 hours a week. Three out of every ten adolescents also say they are hooked on the Messenger program.

THE WEEK IN SMILEYS

Renfe

The railway system in Catalonia is going from back to worse, following repeated breakdowns as a result of the work on the high-speed train line. Lack of information and client service makes the situation even worse.

Polls

The great disparity of results between the electoral polls has created suspicion and mistrust amongst the population. Some people claim that a hypothetical technical draw will take place between CiU and PSC, while others give the Nationalists a clear victory. Who will get it right?

Mossos at El Prat

Finally, the Mossos d'Esquadra have been given a small office in El Prat airport, and in spite of reluctance from the Spanish government and AENA, the firm that runs the installation. The Catalan police should not be excluded from such an important space as Barcelona's airport.

Rijkaard

Barça have had a terrible week, with defeats at Stamford Bridge and in the Bernabeu, against their greatest rivals in Europe and Spain. The team could turn the page on these upsets in next week's return game against Chelsea.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I will teach the PP leaders a lesson"

ARTUR MAS, CIU CANDIDAT

The nationalist leader has for the last few days been calling for votes from both the Republican and the conservative electorate. CiU want to steal the PP vote and to upset Rajoy's party. He's also calling on the youth vote through the party's dynamism.



"A PSC vote is twofold: stability and left-wing"

JOSÉ MONTILLA, PSC CANDIDATE

PSC has been calling for votes from the Iniciativa electorate and more moderate sectors. That is why Montilla is promising stability and left-wing politics to capture votes from those who are not loyal socialist voters.



"PSC should stop its schizophrenia"

J.-L. CAROD, ERC CANDIDATE

He calls for votes from young people tempted to abstain, saying ERC is different and guarantees the Estatut. Wooing PSC *catalanistes*, he criticises the double morality of socialists when it comes to voting in Madrid and Barcelona.



"Being a PP politician is not easy"

JOSEP PIQUÉ, PP CANDIDAT

He's had to stop Spanish PP leaders such as Zaplana from appearing at meetings so as not to upset his less right-wing supporters. He realizes that the idea of PP in Catalonia is difficult to sell, but says he is happy to be a political outsider.



"There's no difference between PSC and CiU"

J. SAURA, ICV-EUIA CANDIDATE

The only defender of a left-wing government accuses PSC of moving rightwards with CiU to gain votes. Saura is trying to stop the socialist takeover bid, as they see that ICV-EUiA have risen considerably in the polls.

