



**Vlaamse
Regering**



Generalitat de Catalunya

JOINT DECLARATION

of the Government of Catalonia and the Government of Flanders

On the 1st of July 2015, the President of the Government of Catalonia, Artur Mas i Gavarró, and the Minister-President of the Government of Flanders, Geert Bourgeois, met in Brussels to discuss the state of their bilateral cooperation (the III Working Plan 2015-2017 Catalonia-Flanders issued from the Cooperation Agreement signed in 2008) and to explore new avenues for deepening their relations.

During the Meeting, they decided to strengthen their partnership on matters related to the European Union, and more particularly on economic governance, growth and jobs in the framework of the Europe 2020 Agenda and the European Semester –Stability Programmes and National Reform Programmes-, by exchanging information, best practices and the adoption, when possible and relevant, of common positions on issues of mutual interest.

Both Flanders and Catalonia emphasized their commitment to the Principle of Subsidiarity in EU-affairs and agreed to promote and defend the concept of a bottom-up built European Union, ever close to her citizens and in which decisions are taken at the appropriate level of government. In this sense, they look forward to undertake initiatives that ensure that the principle of subsidiarity is fully respected and that contribute to the strengthening the role of the relevant Parliaments (national and regional) in the decision making process of the European Union.

For the Government
Of Flanders

Geert Bourgeois
Minister President
Government of Flanders

For the Government
of Catalonia

Artur Mas i Gavarró
President of the
Government of Catalonia