



Motion nr. 5

Name of the person introducing the motion: Anke Spoorendonk [SSW], Carsten Leth Schmidt [SP]

On behalf of the party: Südschleswiger Wählerverband [SSW], Schleswigsche Partei [SP]

Motion: The EU should implement clear criteria and rules in all Member States on the authorisation and conduct of referendums for greater autonomy of European regions including their independence

- A. In light of the current situation in Catalonia.
- B. In light of the positive experience of the referendum in Scotland in 2014 on independence from Great Britain.
- C. With a view to the right to self-determination documented in the UN-Charter.

the European Free Alliance calls for

1. the EU to implement in all Member States clear criteria and rules on the authorisation and conduct of referendums for greater autonomy of European regions including their independence with the aim of allowing these possible new states to be Member States of the EU

2. The criteria could be the following:

- the region concerned must have a historical, linguistic, and/or cultural identity
- the region concerned must have recorded its substantial and long-term desire for independence or greater autonomy
- a possible referendum must be backed up by an electoral majority of 50% plus 1 vote in favour of independence or autonomy before becoming valid
- the linguistic and cultural minority rights of other population groups in the region concerned must continue to be legally and realistically protected

Explanatory note:

While an orderly and democratic referendum on independence was carried out in Scotland in agreement with the central government in London, this was not possible in Catalonia due to the conflict between the regional government in Barcelona and the central government in Madrid. Due to interference by the central government, only 42% of voters in Catalonia went to the polls. As there are many European peoples in the EU without their own state who are striving for independence or more autonomy, the EU must establish clear criteria and rules for the conduct of democratic referendums with the aim of keeping new states as Member States of the EU. Certainly, there must be important reasons for founding a new state.