

## **Clarifications on information published in the media about IESE**

In recent weeks, some media outlets have published inaccurate information that affects IESE as an institution and some individuals who work at our school. We would like to make some clarifications.

October 27, 2017

### **The alleged signature of IESE (Jordi Canals) in support of the Catalan "Estatut"**

Jordi Canals never signed a letter of support for Catalonia's "Estatut" or Statute of Autonomy. On August 28, 2005, some representatives of economic institutions and companies in Barcelona—Fomento del Trabajo, Chamber of Commerce, Círculo de Economía, Círculo Financiero, "la Caixa," IESE and other key entities—signed a letter regarding the process of preparing the new Estatut, which at that time was in the review and debate phase in the Catalan Parliament. The letter referred in laudatory terms to the Spanish Constitution of 1978 and expressed concern about the direction that the Estatut initiative was headed at that time; it called upon political leaders to reach a message of consensus, one that would be satisfactory to all, including the citizens from the rest of Spain.

### **IESE and DIPLOCAT**

IESE, along with other members, withdrew from the Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia (DIPLOCAT) when the council changed its focus in 2015. IESE's participation in this entity is limited to the period 2013-2015, during which the focus of DIPLOCAT was, exclusively, to promote international trade.

### **The alleged comment of Jordi Canals regarding the history of Catalonia**

Jordi Canals has never stated the following: "Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia, a different region with its own language that was a sovereign nation until 1714." These words were erroneously published on the MBA website, for a short period of time, on a fourth-level page, within a text that talked about the city of Barcelona. Upon review, it was corrected immediately.

## **IESE and the opinions of individual professors**

The opinions of our school's professors do not represent whatsoever the institutional opinion of IESE. In fact, we believe we should not take a political stance, even though employees, students and alumni logically will each have their own stance.

We are a community of about 700 people across the campuses, with 115 full-time professors and another who are 70 part-time. Most of the professors who have published articles in the press explaining their positions have expressed support, with different nuances, for coexistence and serenity, especially underlining the commonalities between Catalonia and the rest of Spain.

### **The case of Prof. J. Llopis**

As clearly indicated in his Twitter profile, this is a personal account, from which he shares or retweets content from third parties, but on a strictly personal level. In no case does it reflect the opinions of the numerous companies and entities with which he collaborates, including IESE. On Saturday, October 21 he decided to close his Twitter account.

## **Exiting Catalonia: Relocation of headquarters**

Just like the University of Navarra and all its departments, IESE has its legal address in Navarra, and its Executive Committee is distributed among its different campuses.

## **No stance taken: Why doesn't IESE take a stance?**

IESE is an educational institution, not a political one. It does not make statements on political issues and, specifically, we have never spoken out about the Catalan independence process. As a global school, IESE's mission is clear: to train entrepreneurs and executives so that they can better lead their companies and make a positive impact on society through professionalism, integrity and a spirit of service.

This training is always taught in a context of maximum respect toward each individual and their personal preferences.

IESE business school is part of the University of Navarra, which is based in Pamplona, and has campuses in New York, Munich, São Paulo, Barcelona and Madrid.

Today, IESE is training entrepreneurs and executives from more than 70 nationalities on our campus, and we try to safeguard this space of mutual understanding and the spirit of coexistence.

This does not mean that we are not deeply concerned about the current situation. On the contrary, we believe that the political conflict is having a tremendously negative impact on business in the region and, thus, all of society: on the people whose jobs and families depend

on the proper functioning of the economy and its businesses, on Catalan society as a whole and on Spanish and European society as a whole.

We want to express our love and support for everyone affected in their daily lives by this situation. We ask for accountability and encourage everyone to proactively promote social cohesion, for the common good and, above all, to protect the most fragile members of society, who will foreseeably experience the worst consequences.

## **Exhibit 1. The alleged signature of IESE (Jordi Canals) in support of the Catalan "Estatut"**

On October 15, 2005, we published the following clarification:

“On August 28, 2005, some representatives of economic institutions and companies in Barcelona—Fomento del Trabajo, Chamber of Commerce, Círculo de Economía, Círculo Financiero, "la Caixa," IESE and other key entities—signed a letter regarding the process of preparing the new Estatut, which at that time was in the review and debate phase in the Catalan Parliament.

“The text of that letter referred in laudatory terms to the Constitution of 1978 and expressed concern about the direction that the Estatut was headed at that time. It called upon political leaders to reach a message of consensus, one that would be satisfactory to all, including the citizens from the rest of Spain.

“The letter was not intended to support a particular political stance; instead, once the process began to reform the previous Estatut—a statutory reform that had begun or would begin in other autonomous communities—it was to be a call for seriousness, responsibility and the spirit of dialogue and understanding between political groups with parliamentary representation on a subject of such importance to Spanish society.”

The letter is not, by any means, in support of the current text—from October 2005—nor the text that was being promoted at that time—August 2005. We must remember that for more than a year there have been meetings with leaders from all political parties to examine and try to reach a consensus on the new Estatut. In light of the events of recent months, the letter insists on finding an adequate, constitutional, consensual and solution that works for everyone.

IESE is a meeting point and place for the coexistence of highly diverse people. For this reason, it has and always will abstain from the debate and specific, legitimate political stances, while respecting those of its individual members.

## **Exhibit 2. IESE and DIPLOCAT**

IESE, along with other members, withdrew from the Public Diplomacy Council of Catalonia (DIPLOCAT) when the council changed its focus. IESE's participation in this entity is limited to the period 2013-2015, during which the focus of DIPLOCAT was, exclusively, to promote international trade.

The predecessor of DIPLOCAT was the Patronat Català Pro Europa, founded in 1981; its membership comprised the main institutions of Catalonia, all universities and the leading businesses and financial entities. Its purpose was to raise awareness and

prepare society for Spain's entry into the European Union (1986), adhering to the objective of promoting investment and foreign trade in Catalonia, until 2013.

When the first signs emerged that it was seeking to become a platform for expounding the possible independence of Catalonia, IESE's Executive Committee decided to withdraw, despite the Generalitat's insistence that it remain.

### Exhibit 3. IESE (or Jordi Canals) and the admissions website in the summer of 2016

Jordi Canals has never stated the following: "Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia, a different region with its own language that was a sovereign nation until 1714."

These words were erroneously published on the MBA website, for a short period of time, on a fourth-level page in the architecture of the website<sup>1</sup>. Upon review, it was corrected immediately.

The MBA website publishes information on the cultural and historical context of Barcelona. This information is aimed at international students who will be coming to live in the city.

The content we disseminate through the IESE website aim to convey the values that define us as an institution, while showcasing the training we offer. In no case are they intended to spread any type of political stance.

### Exhibit 5. IESE's political stance

IESE Business School, part of the **University of Navarra**, is committed to developing leaders who aspire to have a positive and lasting impact on people, businesses and society. It promotes integrity, the spirit of service and the highest standards of professionalism and accountability. In short, it contributes to the training of entrepreneurs and executives who can be trusted with the future of businesses and social institutions.

The training offered by the school is based on interdisciplinary research of the highest level: Professors and researchers push the limits of knowledge to offer a rigorous, transferable and relevant body of knowledge for companies and today's society.

Thus, integrity implies respect for the laws and norms established for democratic coexistence. IESE aims to promote peaceful and pleasant coexistence for all, which is also a direct consequence of our mission.

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<sup>1</sup> We are looking for the dates.

For many years now, IESE's leadership has publicly stated on many occasions, to alumni at the Global Alumni Reunion, in numerous meetings with the press, that it defends freedom and constitutional order in Spain and in the countries where it operates, always calling for accountability from politicians and business to seek solutions that pursue the common good of society and facilitate coexistence.

Finally, at IESE we have helped the Spanish government on many occasions, particularly during the tough years of the Great Recession, such as when we offered to organize events in New York (on campus), Munich, Shanghai and London featuring presentations for investors to defend the future of Spain's economy and the country itself, while most businesses and politicians were focusing their efforts on requesting a bailout.

We have also rendered some key services to Spain's Royal House and the current king. Therefore, IESE not only has not defended sovereignty proposals, but we have actually provided many important services during these years to the Spanish Government and the monarchy.