

[Eurasia] TASKING - Secessionism

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I tried to keep it short, but can expand if needed.

Galicia

Population: Approximately 10 millions of Galician people worldwide, including 2.796.089 in Galicia (6-7% of the Spanish population).

Popular support for independence: Low. According to a recent poll, 75% of the Galicians feel more Spanish than Galicians. Source Galicia has partial self-governance, in the form of a devolved government, established on 16

March 1978 and reinforced by the Galician Statute of Autonomy, ratified on 28 April 1981.

Politics: President of Galicia: Alberto Núñez Feijóo (People's Party of Galicia).

Parliament of Galicia: 2009

People's Party of Galicia (Partido Popular de Galicia) 38

Socialist Party of Galicia (Partido Socialista de Galicia) 25

Galician Nationalist Bloc (Bloque Nacionalista Galego) 12

From 1990 BNG has gradually abandoned the secessionist discourse and claims for self-determination are rarely produced, especially since the regionalist party Unidade Galega (Galician Unity) joined the coalition.

The movement for secessionism is very mild in Galicia.

Sami people, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Russia:

Population: Between 60,000 and 100,000 in Norway. 14,600 in Sweden. 9350 in Finland. 2000 in Russia.

Popular support for independence: Difficult to evaluate. There is a growing self-consciousness and the Sami people are asking for more rights, but still not to a point of secessionism.

The Sami are politically organized through Sami Parliaments (one for each country) which sometimes work together. Most of their work is however related to preserving the Sami languages and culture. Disputes over the ownership of land and natural resources continue in these countries, which

could potentially lead to a rise in their desire to be independent.

The Sami Council is a transnational organization (ONG statute), which aims at promoting Saami rights and interests in the four countries where the Saami are living, to consolidate the feeling of affinity among the Saami people, to attain recognition for the Saami as a nation and to maintain the economic, social and cultural rights of the Saami in the legislation of the four states. Source

Overall, the risk of secession is very low.

The Basques (Spain): [When I say a**the Basque countrya**, I only refer to the Spanish part here]

Population: 1,850,500 in the Spanish part of the Basque country, 230,020 in the French part.

Support for independence: Low/moderate.

Autonomous since 1979. The Basque parliament:

Basque Nationalist Party 30 == > Independentist tendencies (proposed in 2007 for example the creation of an independent a**euro-regiona** comprising the Spanish and French Basque country.

Socialist Party of the Basque Country 25

Peoples Party 13

Aralar 4 == > Independentist Party

Eusko Alkartasuna 1 == > Independentist Party

United Left 1

Unión Progreso y Democracia 1

Since 2009, the President of the Basque country is Juan José Ibarretxe, a Socialist, but still fairly in favor of a wider autonomy (Proposed for example in 2003 Ibarretxe Plan, which foresees a future Basque country 'freely associated' with Spain, with its own separate legal system and European Union (EU) representation.) Thus, politically, the secessionist movement is relatively strong. In regard to popular support to independence, a poll in 2002 showed that 32% of the people living in the Basque region would be in favor of a statu quo; 31% are in favor of a wider autonomy and 31% would support the independence. Source

Kosovo:

PNV [Basque Nationalist Party]

"It is a victory for common sense," Inigo Urkullu [leader of PNV] said.

Inaki Anasagasti [PNV member of Parliament] urged the government to stop

"scaring" Catalonia and the Basque Country.

Source: La Vanguardia website, Barcelona, in Spanish 24 Jul 10

El portavoz del Partido Nacionalista Vasco en la ComisiA^3n Mixta para la UniA^3n Europea, IA+-aki Anasagasti, ha declarado que esta decisiA^3n del CIJ no hace si no confirmar que la postura que EspaA+-a ha mantenido hasta ahora sobre este tema es "incomprensible y mA!s propia del franquismo" que de un sistema democrA!tico, y le ha pedido al Gobierno que deje de "meter miedo" a CataluA+-a y Euskadi. AdemA!s, ha arremetido contra el ministro de Exteriores, al que acusa de tener a**mucha querencia sobre Serbiaa**. Anasagasti ha apostillado que los nacionalistas vascos van a continuar reclamando en las Cortes Generales en su derecho de la voluntad popular "por encima de cualquier otra consideraciA^3n".Source

Google Translate: The Basque Nationalist Party spokesman in the Joint Commission for the European Union, Inaki Anasagasti, said that the decision of the ICJ if it does confirm that the position that Spain has maintained so far on this issue is "incomprehensible and more typical of Franco "that a democratic system, and has asked the government to stop the" scare "in Catalonia and Euskadi. He has also lashed out at foreign minister, which he accuses of having "a lot of fondness for Serbia." Anasagasti has Apostilled that Basque nationalists will continue calling on the Parliament in the right of the popular will "above any other consideration."

Catalonia:

Population: 4,664,675 of Catalans in Catalonia (7,504,881 is the total population of Catalonia).

Popular support: 37% of pro-independence, 41% of unionists (highest support of independence it has ever been) Source

1979: Autonomy recovered. A new statute was approved in 2006 by referendum. However, important articles of the statute were declared unconstitutional in July 2010. The Catalan Statute of Autonomy (1979) established a Catalan Parliament, the Presidency of the Generalitat, the Government or Executive Council and the other institutions created by the Parliament. Symbolic referendum on independence are sometimes organized.

Catalan Parliament (2006 election) :

Convergència i Unió 48 ==
> Increase Catalonia's autonomy

Partit dels Socialistes de Catalunya-CpC 37

Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya 21
== > Clearly independentists

Partit Popular
14

Iniciativa Verds-Esquerra Alternativa 12

Ciutadans - Partido de la Ciudadanía 3

Kosovo :

Por su parte, Esquerra Republicana, a través de su eurodiputado, Oriol Junqueras, se mostró "satisfecho de que la democracia haya vencido". ERC se propone presentar una propuesta no de ley pidiendo el reconocimiento con todos sus efectos de la República de Kosovo. Source

Google Translate: For its part, Esquerra Republicana, through its MEP, Oriol Junqueras, was "satisfied that democracy has prevailed." ERC intends to present a law proposal calling for the recognition for all purposes of the Republic of Kosovo.

Entre los catalanes, el partido de Artur Mas ha felicitado al pueblo kosovar, y considera que esta ha sido una sentencia l3gica. Adem3s, insta al Gobierno espaol a "reconocer definitivamente al nuevo Estado europeo". Source

Google Translate: Among the Catalans, the party of Artur Mas (Convergencia i Unió) has congratulated the people of Kosovo, and considers that this was a logical decision. It also urges the Spanish government to "finally recognize the new European state."

From the President of Catalonia, Jose Montilla :

El presidente de la Generalitat, Jos(c) Montilla, ha destacado que Catalu+a y Kosovo tienen "pocas cosas en com3n", por lo que ha rechazado que puedan establecerse paralelismos. "No tiene nada que ver el r(c)gimen opresivo de la Serbia de Milosevic con la Catalu+a y la Espa+a de 2010". Responde as3 a las declaraciones de ERC. Para los independentistas, la decisi3n de la ONU de declarar legal la independencia de Kosovo se podr3a aplicar a una hipot(c)tica independencia de Catalu+a.

Google Translate: The President of the Generalitat, Jos(c) Montilla, Catalonia and stressed that Kosovo have "little in common, so has rejected parallels can be established. "It has nothing to do with the oppressive regime of Milosevic's Serbia and Spain in Catalonia in 2010." Responds to the statements of ERC. For independence, the UN decision to declare the independence of Kosovo law could be applied to a hypothetical independence of Catalonia. Source

== > Moderate risk of secession. Very low risk of secession through a conflict .

Nagorno-Karabakh:

Population: About 140,000.

Nagorno-Karabakh Republic: Territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, which has not exercised power over most of the region since 1991. Three solutions: the region as part of Azerbaijan, the region as part of Armenia and an independent region. The election that took place in May showed a massive support for pro-independence parties. The Free Motherland party, led by the region's prime minister Ara Harutiunyan, received 46 percent of the vote and the pro-government Democratic Party of Artsakh 30 percent. Source

Bako Sahakyan is currently the president of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Kosovo:

According to Sahakyan the advisory ruling by the International Court of Justice over the legality of Kosovo's independence will bring about new geopolitical situation.

Further he said he did not think that ICJ's ruling over Kosovo will seriously affect the works by OSCE MG, but even if it does, Karabakh will only welcome it. Source

If the recognition of Kosovo's independence facilitates the

international recognition of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, we will

certainly welcome this, President of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic

Bako Sahakyan said during a press-conference in Stepanakert July 23. Source

== > Technically speaking, the region is currently in between three stages. Very strong support for independence, but will not happen.

Belgium:

Population: 10,700,000. About 6,000,000 Flemish; 3,400,000 Walloons; 73,000 German speaking people.

Walloon/Flemish division. There are different options: Wallonia could join France (weak popular support a** around 1%. However, 32% of the Walloons would be in favor of it if Belgium split apart Source), separation of Wallonia and Flanders (there is the problem of Brussels, in the middle of the Flanders).

Composition of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives after the 13 June 2010 general elections

Walloon political parties

1. Socialist Party 26 seats

2. Ecolo 8 seats

3. Humanist Democratic Center 9 seats

4. Reform Movement 18 seats

Flemish political parties

5. Flemish Socialist Party 13 seats

6. Green! 5 seats

7. Christian Democratic & Flemish 17 seats === > Wants a confederation

8. New Flemish Alliance 27 seats == > Clearly independendist

9. Open VLD 13 seats
=== > Wants a confederation

10. Flemish Interest 12 seats == > Clearly independendist

11. Others 2 seats

The country could split apart; it is an option that is possible.

I have not seen statements about Kosovo.

Corsica:

Population: 294 118.

The Nationalist parties are coming back. In March 2010, regional elections were held and the nationalist parties won 35,74% of the votes (three times more than at the previous election): 10% for the independentist party (Corsica Libera) and 26% for the autonomists (Femu a Corsica).

The independence of Corsica will not happen anytime soon. The island is not auto-sufficient and popular support for independence is still not high enough (even though there is a rise). I would put Corsica in the second category.

No statements about Kosovo.

