

## **Intervenció del president de la Generalitat, Quim Torra, al sopar inaugural del Mobile World Congress (MWC)**

24.02.2019

It is a pleasure to be here today and welcome you to this year's Mobile World Congress. In the name of the Government of Catalonia, I'd like to thank and congratulate the GSMA for once again making this congress a success, and Fira de Barcelona for making it all possible.

Two years ago, It was the President Puigdemont who gave you the welcome speech.

Therefore I would like to remember him and the members of his government, that can not be with us today.

Despite the months of upheaval, Catalan society, businesses and institutions have kept moving forward. They have not stopped working and growing.

Catalonia has always been a land of creators and revolutionaries in innovation, great names like Gaudí, Miró, Dalí, Cerdà and Pau Casals who have contributed to the progress of society through creative solutions. Today, we the people of Catalonia have the opportunity to lead the change and meet the challenge of generating a new culture and a new model of governance through the digital nation.

That is why we are so proud of the fact that the Mobile World Congress is held in Catalonia, through a stable, long-term commitment. Companies, international delegations, start-ups... all have high expectations of an event such as this. We hope that they will all be met.

Over the next few days, we'll be seeing some of the innovations which in the coming years will become a daily feature in all aspects of our lives, with a radical impact on our productive, economic and social systems.

Tomorrow, the Catalan Government will be approving the 5G Strategy for Catalonia through the new Ministry for Digital Policy. We consider it a key priority to make Catalonia a cutting-edge digital nation by boosting and developing 5G and other advanced and disruptive technologies.

The great architect Le Corbusier once said: "Allow me to state here how much I love Barcelona, an admirable city, a city full of life, intense, an open port to the past and to the future."

Like Le Corbusier, we are millions of people all over the world who love Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia. As Le Corbusier said, Barcelona is this port open to the past and future, just as Catalonia has always been a port open to everyone.

This city, always full of life, intense, during the celebration of the MWC shines even more intensely, and becomes the digital capital of the world.

We are proud of it and we want to give you the warmest regards. As we said in the 1992 Olympic Games, we want to be your friends forever.

We are a port open to the past and to the future. True perhaps in any country like Catalonia one realizes how past and future they are so tied. A country that has made, from its will to exist, its identity signal. Catalonia is a place where we love democracy above all. And the defense of universal human rights and civil and collective rights have always been a constant struggle for the Catalan people. It has been so in the past and it is today. And it will continue to be in the future, because we will never renounce the principles of Pau Casals, a country that is defined by culture, talent and freedom.

And that is why we have all trust in the future. Because we know where we come from. And, rooted in this land, we know where we want to go.

Thank you very much.