#### Ben and I Affirm.

#### Our Sole Contention is the Three Amigos

#### Subpoint A is Benefits for Spain:

Amanda Erickson of the Washington Post observes that as a result of the Catalan independence referendum earlier this year, the threat of being cut off from Spain and the global economy has prompted over 2700 Catalan financial institutions to move their head offices into other parts of Spain, including CaixaBank and Banco Sabadell, two of the most prosperous banks in Europe. This is really integral Esteban Duarte of Bloomberg sees that the day the banks announced their moves out of Catalonia, their stocks jumped from the worst recession they had ever seen to a growth of over 3%, which is expected to promote long term economic growth and stability in Spain.

Additionally, this would give advantages for Spain in leveraging trade with Catalonia. Pankaj Ghemawat of The Economist finds that as a developing economy, Catalonia would immediately pivot west for convenience as a growing economy and Spain would begin to make up the vast majority of Catalonia’s trade, which Albert Estanol of the University of London finds forces long-term mutually beneficial agreements to be pursued. Estanol concludes that Catalan secession would in fact trigger greater economic development and modernisation throughout Spain and Catalonia, and both states would be better off in the long run. This much needed financial capital has the potential to revitalize dying and fuel burgeoning economies.

#### Subpoint B is Benefits for Catalonia:

Secession would benefit Catalonia in two ways:

**First, they avoid Spanish control.** Caroline Mortimer of The Independent finds that the biggest reason Catalonia wants independence is because Spain’s politics and economic policies do not match those of Catalonia. While Catalonia’s Podemos Party is trying to focus on promoting democratic socialism, welfare, and quality healthcare for its citizens, the Spanish government continues to prop up wealthy Barcelona to boost Spain’s economy, exacerbating social cleavages between classes within Catalonia. That’s why Estanol writes that the new state would gain in the longrun as the preferences of its citizens would be better aligned with the central government.

**Second is diversification of markets**. The Conversation reports that long-term, businesses will search out new international markets, as seen with Catalonia seeking out new places to sell products after boycotts. Josep Raya finds that this diversification has boosted Catalonia’s GDP 15% in recent years, and this would only increase with secession. Holistically, Amat finds that t. Shifting to new markets allows the Catalan economy to develop with multiple new alliances investing in a growing market.

#### Subpoint C is Benefits for the European Union:

Hamish McRae of The Independent writes that the easiest and most likely result after Catalan secession is that Catalonia would *still* retain EU membership. Secession benefits the EU for 2 reasons:

**First is combating the rise of the far right.** Maher of the Conversation finds that the EU is being plagued by a rise in nationalism and far-right terrorism, increasing international tensions, which Giles Merritt of Politico observes has tarnished the image and legitimacy of the EU. The prerequisite to stopping these meteoric rises, according to Vidhya Ramalingam of the ISD, is the implementation and adherence by the EU of comprehensive frameworks and policies that define hate crimes, lay out rights of victims, and promote the integration of immigrants into society. The reason Catalonia helps the EU is that they are an ideal example of all of these policies and can be integral in drafting these frameworks, as Peter Farquhar of Business Insider finds that Catalonia has only been the victim of one terrorist attack in over 13 years because of integration policies that help assimilate minority populations, instead of establishing ghettos like other EU countries.

**Second, Catalan secession helps the financial stability of the EU**. Catalonia’s ideal location partnered with massive economic benefits from secession, the EU’s monetary gain would be immense when accepting a new sovereign state with an economy ripe for flourish.

As the EU profits, its member states do as well, as it is empirically easier to relieve debt by getting monetary loans, and the Euro will continue to prosper.

We see that secession benefits 3 parties: Catalonia, Spain, and the EU, which all in turn benefit each other immensely, creating a trinity of prosperity.

Thus, we affirm. Thank you.

### Cards

#### Erickson 17

Amanda Erickson, 11/30/17, “Since Catalonia’s independence vote, 2,700 businesses have moved their headquarters”, The Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/11/30/since-catalonias-independence-vote-2700-businesses-have-moved-their-headquarters/?utm_term=.eb2c95b3dc2a> //BB

The European Union has been leery to suggest a relationship as well. In theory, independence was supposed to make the region more prosperous. But the October referendum — and Spain's subsequent takeover — has left businesses nervous. Since the vote, more than 2,700 firms have moved their headquarters from the region, according to Spain's commercial registrar's office, the Agence France-Presse reported. That list includes major banks like Caixabank and Sabadell, along with small and medium firms. Many of these shifts are administrative. But they may be the first step to relocating staff and production.

#### Duarte 17

Esteban Duarte, 10/4/17, “Catalan Banks Weigh Moving Headquarters to Reassure Clients”, Bloomberg, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-10-04/catalan-depositors-torn-on-who-to-bank-with-amid-secession-fears> //BB

Sabadell, the region’s second-biggest bank, called a board meeting for Thursday to discuss a potential relocation. “The political situation is a pain in the neck for these banks,” Cesar Molinas, founder of Multa Paucis, an investment consultancy firm, said in an interview. “They don’t want clients in Madrid to see them as Catalan banks, nor clients in Barcelona to see them as Spanish banks. They’re treading on thin ice.” Sabadell will hold an extraordinary board meeting at 5 p.m., according to a press officer for the bank who asked not to be named citing corporate policy. The company’s preferred destination for new headquarters is Catalonia’s neighboring region of Valencia, specifically the area of Alicante, the person said. CaixaBank is considering a temporary move of its legal domicile to the Balearic Islands if plans for independence go ahead, newspaper El Mundo reported Thursday. “CaixaBank reiterates that all the necessary decisions will be taken, at the right time, always with the goal of prioritizing the interests of clients, shareholders and staff," the bank’s press office said in an emailed statement. Both banks’ shares rebounded Thursday, with CaixaBank rising 3 percent at 3:28 p.m. in Madrid and Sabadell gaining 3.5 percent. The stocks suffered their biggest losses in more than a year Wednesday.

#### Ghemawat 12

The Economist, “The cost of freedom”, 11/23/12, <https://www.economist.com/blogs/charlemagne/2012/11/catalonias-trade>, //BB

Catalans are rightly proud that more than half of their trade flows outside of Spanish borders. France is the top destination, accounting for 10% of Catalonia's exports. But the next three biggest destinations are the regions of Andalucia, Aragon and Valencia. Indeed, if Catalonia were independent, Spain would be its largest trading partner, accounting for more than one-third of its trade. This suggests that, from an economic standpoint, there is much to gain from staying within the larger political entity. More of Mr Ghemawat's maps are available at his website.

#### Estanol 17

Albert Estanol, 10/12/17, “Catalonia, Spain and the economic consequences of a split”, The Conversation, <https://theconversation.com/catalonia-spain-and-the-economic-consequences-of-a-split-85557> //BB

A key factor is whether Catalonia could gain independence and remain in the EU. If Catalonia were to remain as part of the EU, not much would change for either side. If it were required to remain outside the EU for a period of time, it would need to negotiate trade agreements with the new Spanish state and the rest of the EU. Despite the inevitable transition costs for both sides, there may also be some benefits to a split. The new Spanish state would lose a dynamic economy with better economic indicators than its average in terms of GDP, unemployment, exports and innovation. But this may trigger greater economic development and modernisation in its remaining regions. The new Spanish state may gain in the long run if the preferences of its citizens are more homogeneous and better aligned with the central government than at present. Needless to say, prior to independence, both parties may have vested interests in using economic and non-economic threats against each other. After secession, however, mutually beneficial agreements would unavoidably be pursued. In any case, both new states are viable, and they could well be better off in the long run.

#### Mortimer 17

Carloine Mortimer, 10/29/17, “Catalan crisis: Why does Catalonia want independence? Do the majority really support it?”, The Independent, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/catalan-crisis-why-does-catalonia-want-independence-do-people-really-support-it-spain-latest-a8025836.html>, //BB

In 2010, a decision by the Spanish Constitutional Court – the country’s equivalent of a Supreme Court – struck down a law passed by the Catalan parliament in 2006 which updated the autonomous government’s statute from 1979 which mapped out its relations with the rest of Spain. The court struck down 14 articles and curtailed another 27 of the 223 articles in the statute – rejecting a pledge to place the importance of the Catalan language above Spanish and anything that suggested Catalonia was a “nation” as opposed to a “region”. This led to massive street protests and the rise of the pro-independence political parties who now control the Catalan parliament. In 2014 there was an unofficial referendum (with an estimated turn out of 37-41%) on independence in which 80 per cent of voters said they wanted Catalonia to be an independent state. But unlike in 2017, the Catalan government branded it as a “popular consultation process” to gauge public opinion and did not threaten to declare independence unilaterally.

#### Estanol 17

Albert Estanol, 10/12/17, “Catalonia, Spain and the economic consequences of a split”, The Conversation, <https://theconversation.com/catalonia-spain-and-the-economic-consequences-of-a-split-85557> //BB

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#### The Conversation 17

Albert Estanol, 10/12/17, “Catalonia, Spain and the economic consequences of a split”, The Conversation, <https://theconversation.com/catalonia-spain-and-the-economic-consequences-of-a-split-85557> //BB

Because of the size difference, Catalonia would end up suffering more from this (the rest of Spain accounts for one third of Catalan exports). But it is unclear how long boycotts would last, and how restrictive they might be. Businesses may also search out other markets, as they have even in the recent past. Exports of Cava from Catalonia to other countries, for example, increased substantially following an informal boycott from the rest of Spain ten years ago.

#### Raya 14

**Josep Raya (Barcelona Graduate School of Economics) July 2014**

[**https://www.barcelonagse.eu/sites/default/files/working\_paper\_pdfs/770.pdf**](https://www.barcelonagse.eu/sites/default/files/working_paper_pdfs/770.pdf)

**Second, the main source of growth of the sector lately has been the foreign market. The sector exports 66.4% of its production (2012), but this percentage was only 51.6% in 2001 and 33.9% in 1990. Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, the United States and Japan are the main export destinations.21 This, together with the fact that more or less half of the domestic sales take place in the Catalan market, make the potential impact of a boycott in the Spanish market much less important today than a few years ago.The data is also disaggregated by eight different territories in Spain (see Map 2) which include the two main metropolitan areas (Madrid, in the geographical centre of Spain and political capital of the country, and Barcelona, the main city in the region of Catalonia) and six other regions which group all Spanish provinces (except the Canary Islands) according to geographical criteria which do not correspond exactly to administrative and political divisions in Spain.**

#### Amat 14

O. Amat, 2014, “The Economy of Catalonia”, Comissió d’Economia Catalana, <http://www.coleconomistes.cat/pdf/the.economy.of.catalonia.pdf> //BB

One of the most significant trends, after the increase in exports, is the development of the degree of coverage (the percentage of imports which are paid for by exports), which has risen from 60% to 85% in the period 2003-2012. This is certainly due in part to the effects of the economic crisis, which have forced a drastic change in trade transactions: with a fall in imports of capital goods due to the decline in industrial investment and a fall in the demand for consumer goods due to the decrease in family consumption. However, if sales to the rest of Spain are taken into account, Catalonia could in fact have a positive balance of trade already, with all that this implies in terms of its ability to capitalise the economy. In relation to this, it should be pointed out that the Czech Republic, Poland and Austria, for example, have Germany as their main partner, accounting for 30% of their exports. **As an independent State, Catalonia could have a similar proportion of its trade with Spain, and this is in fact the trend which has emerged in recent years. At the same time it could foster increased trading relations with France and other European countries like Italy, Austria and Germany, particularly on the basis of improved communications, an important factor here being the Euro-Mediterranean corridor. Furthermore, Catalan influence in emerging markets, especially North Africa and Latin America, is growing every year. These markets could be consolidated, and the influence of the Catalan economy there intensified, given the possibility of independent Catalan diplomacy (it may be pointed out here that Catalans make up around 3% of the Spanish diplomatic service), and this would be perfectly compatible with continuing to maintain partnerships on the basis of mutual benefit with the big Spanish companies in regulated sectors.**

#### McRae 17

[Hamish Mcrae, 10-28-2017. "Catalonia could be an extremely successful economy and EU member state." Independent. http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/catalonia-spain-independence-vote-economy-population-location-trade-currency-a8025051.html] //BH

Catalonia could be an extremely successful economy and EU member state It is not for foreign economists to take positions on the independence of Catalonia, for that is for the people of Catalonia and Spain to decide. What can be said, though, is that if Catalonia were to become a fully independent country there is no reason why it should not – after a period of disruption – be an extremely successful economy. There are a number of reasons why this is likely to be so. For a start, it has a population of 7.5 million. There is no right or wrong size as such, for there are successful countries that are very small: Luxembourg, with a population of just under 600,000, is the richest country in the world in terms of GDP per person. (Monaco probably comes in higher, but it is a special case.) And of course the three largest countries in terms of population – China, India and the US – are also success stories in their own ways. But there does seem to be a sweet spot in the 5 million to 15 million bracket, where countries are big enough to offer their citizens a full range of services but are also small enough to be socially cohesive. This includes Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland. Catalonia would naturally join that group. Catalonia Spain PM Rajoy asks Senate for powers to depose Catalan president Puigdemont That argument leads to a second condition for success: location. Countries cannot choose their location, and have to make the best of what they have. But if your neighbours are doing well, unless you deliberately cut yourself off from them, you will tend to be pulled along too. Catalonia, in that sense, is lucky in several ways. It has prosperous neighbours, France and the rest of Spain (though relations with the latter would be difficult for a while). It has a coastline, and a Mediterranean one at that. Barcelona and Tarragona, a little to the south, are Spain’s two largest ports. Third, it has an established economic base. It is a manufacturing centre, has two top-ranking business schools, and the usual array of service industries. Separatists have noted that though Catalonia has about 18 per cent of Spain’s population, it generates more than 20 per cent of its GDP. Were it to be fully independent, with Barcelona and its 1.6 million people, it would have one of the glitziest capital cities on earth. A final point: Catalonia has brand recognition. Brand is an intangible advantage, but can be deployed to leverage other economic advantages. Ireland is a fine example of that, using its brand (and its educated workforce) to make it a base for high-tech American companies seeking to enter the European market. On its own, Catalonia could be nimble in attracting business, and consequently creating jobs, than it has been as part of Spain. But these advantages are general ones, formidable in the medium and long run, but less helpful in the short. To get from here to there is difficult, and political disruption leads to economic disruption. Unlike the separation of the Czech Republic and Slovakia, if this is to be a divorce, it will not be a velvet one. There are a string of practical questions. What currency would Catalonia use? It would probably have to establish its own, as it would be difficult to continue to use the euro, even informally. In the long run, a separate currency might well to be the country’s benefit, for the inflexibility that the euro has imposed on Spain is one of the reasons why it has such high unemployment. But in the immediate days and months after independence, this would be very disruptive. It would be difficult for the banks based there, some of which have said they would relocate their legal headquarters. It would also be difficult for business and tourism. **My guess is that an independent Catalonia would be welcomed into the EU if it still wanted to rejoin**, but that could take a decade. In the meantime we are seeing hostility from the EU. As for the other major countries, while their present stance of not recognising Catalonia is quite understandable and correct, if and when the country became truly independent, they have no option but to accept reality. But – and this is important – there is a considerable economic cost to political disruption on this scale. The call for calm by Catalonia’s sacked leader Carles Puigdemont is sensible and strikes a helpful tone. Let’s see what happens. But if the end does turn out to be a new European country, then in another decade it is likely to be a prosperous one.

#### Maher 17

[Richard Maher, 9-25-2017. "Why there are so many terror attacks in Europe." Newsweek. http://www.newsweek.com/attacks-europe-heres-why-there-are-so-many-terror-plots-across-atlantic-670314] //BH

The September 15 terrorist bombing in a crowded London subway station—which injured at least 30 passengers but caused no deaths—was the latest in a string of terrorist attacks in Western Europe in recent years. In mid-August, attacks in Barcelona and the nearby city of Cambrils killed 16 people and injured more than 130 just a few days before an attacker with a knife in Finland killed two and wounded eight others. Earlier assaults this year in London and Manchester, England, left dozens dead and hundreds more wounded. Since 2015, there has been a sharp increase in both the number of attacks and deaths caused by terrorism in Europe. As someone who studies European security issues, I see three key factors contributing to this development: Europe’s large and often poorly integrated Muslim population, proximity to unstable regions like the Middle East and North Africa, and terrorists’ new focus on highly vulnerable “soft” targets. Poor integration The Islamic State claimed on its Amaq news outlet that a “detachment” of its followers were responsible for last week’s London attack. While terrorism in Europe today is commonly associated with Islamic extremism, since the end of World War II Europe has experienced different waves of terrorist violence. In the 1970s and 1980s, the biggest terrorist threat was secular Marxist groups such as the Red Brigades in Italy and Germany’s Red Army Faction as well as separatist groups such as Spain’s ETA and Northern Ireland’s Irish Republican Army (IRA).

#### Merritt 17

[Elizabeth Collett and Aliyyah Ahad, 12-15-2017. "Europe needs a new newsroom." POLITICO. https://www.politico.eu/article/europe-needs-a-new-newsroom-communications-eu-tarnished-image-euroskeptics-brussels-pr/] //BH

Fears are growing that the European Union’s unpopularity will undermine its survival. Assailed by Euroskeptic politicians and riven internally by disagreements between member governments, the EU’s tarnished image needs vigorous polishing, and the Commission is certainly not up to the job. The EU needs a thorough communications revolution if it wants to highlight its achievements and its worth. Here’s an idea: Let’s take communications out of their hands. First, the EU will have to abandon the fiction that Europeans are somehow at fault for failing to appreciate the value of 60 years of economic and political integration. The truth is that Brussels has failed to explain these benefits to Europeans. Next, the Commission should fire its legions of spokespersons and disband the cumbersome teams tasked with promotion and publicity. Instead, it should hire independent journalists whose role would be to write and broadcast the stories readers and viewers genuinely care about — not the stories EU officials wish to promote.

#### Ramalingam 14

[Vidhya Ramalingam, 2-13-2014. "The European far right is on the rise, again. Here's how to tackle it." Guardian. https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/feb/13/european-far-right-on-the-rise-how-to-tackle] //BH

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#### Farquhar 17

[Peter Farquhar, 8-18-2017. "Why Spain has become a target for terrorists." Business Insider. http://www.businessinsider.com/why-spain-has-become-a-target-for-terrorists-2017-8] //BH

An Islamist-extremist attack succeeded on Spanish soil most recently in March 2004, when Al Qaeda operatives bombed four commuter trains in Madrid, killing 191 people. The country ramped up its security force and intelligence assets after those attacks, and it now tracks about 1,000 people suspected of links to terrorism and the Islamic State. But just as important, according to an intelligence analyst speaking with London's The Times, "better integration" for the Muslim population has seen Spain avoid the frequency of attacks seen in France. "Here we don't have ghettos as they do in France," the analyst said. "The integration of the Muslim population is greater — the radicalization is not so great." The Times reports that Spain is considered a target for jihadists because of it was largely under Muslim rule from the years 711 to 1492. This time last year, the Islamic State's media arm made a point of reminding militants of Muslims killed by the Spanish in the Battle of Las Navas de Tolosa, the 1212 battle known in the Arab world as the Battle of al-Uqab. It called on them to rise up against Spaniards in tourist hotspots such as Barcelona's Las Ramblas and use explosives and trucks to avenge "crimes committed by Spain against Muslims."