

## A citizens' ultimatum to the Spanish Government: call a general election before 15 November

A poster on the balcony to demand an election: Reinicia España is launched. Sociedad Civil Española is making the artwork available so that anyone can produce and display their own.

**Madrid, 26 August 2026.** Sociedad Civil Española, a platform bringing together more than a hundred civil-society organisations, has launched Reinicia España: an initiative calling on the Prime Minister to call a general election, with a deadline attached. The decree must be published in the official gazette (BOE) before 15 November. The demand is expressed as simply as possible: a yellow poster on the balcony so that the country can press the reset button at the next general election. It does not ask for a vote for any party; it is the sovereign people demanding a vote now.



Computer-generated recreation. Not a real photograph: it illustrates the aim of the initiative.

### Anger that has been building for years

This is years of accumulated exhaustion. The initiative sums it up in three words: abandoned, worn down and alarmed.

**Abandoned** at our borders, in disasters, in the countryside, in grave national emergencies that could have been prevented, or at the funerals of Civil Guard officers who die for lack of resources. **Worn down** by the shortage of housing, by the weekly shop, by waiting lists, by not making it to the end of the month, by tax rises, by keeping a business going through red tape, by the lack of opportunity and of a future, by a scandal every single day, by having no voice. **Alarmed** by the erosion of the separation of powers, by corruption, by interference in the judiciary, by the partisan use of the media, by a law that released convicted rapists from prison, by a convicted Attorney General, by the blocked renewal of oversight bodies, by hand-picked appointments, by governing with those they said they never would, by governing without a budget and by emergency decree, by the blackout that left the country in the dark, by the lack of investment in maintaining the country, by the attempt to tie the hands of the UCO, the Civil Guard unit that investigates corruption, by the destruction of the middle class, by the drift towards autocracy, by contempt for victims, by the absence of any sense of statehood... The crisis in Ceuta was the final straw.

To that is added something harder to measure: the scandals have followed one another so fast that they no longer cause surprise. Many Spaniards describe a feeling of anaesthesia, of having grown used to what nobody should ever grow used to, and the certainty that this Government has left them behind. And a conviction that keeps spreading: tomorrow there will be an even bigger scandal.

### A powerlessness rooted in the Constitution

Alongside that anger sits a fact that explains much of the powerlessness: in Spain, the power to call an early election belongs exclusively to the Prime Minister. He alone can

dissolve parliament and bring the vote forward. The King formalises the decree, but the decision is the Prime Minister's.

Citizens, by contrast, have no mechanism to force one: no referendum, no popular legislative initiative, no appeal of any kind. However widespread the discontent, there is no institutional route to take it to the ballot box before the parliamentary term ends.

Hence, they explain, the form the initiative has taken. If there is no institutional channel, what remains is the one the Constitution grants every citizen: free expression. A poster on a balcony is exactly that.

It is also, they point out, the answer to a demand that has been repeated for months in conversations and on social media: that of many people who see how serious the situation is, want to do something and cannot find a way. «Call us to something» is a phrase that has been read and heard for some time. The association takes on its role there: not to summon anyone in anybody's name, but to provide the means for each person to raise their own voice, from their own home.

*«Spain is blocked. Not in one thing; in everything. It is time to reset it.»*

Marcos de Quinto, coordinating committee of Reinicia España

## How to join in

The initiative asks for no money and no membership. It asks for visible presence, and proposes these ways of taking part:

- **Put up the poster.** On a balcony, a window, a shop front or a car. The artwork is at [reiniciaespana.org](http://reiniciaespana.org) in several formats, from a single sheet of paper to a building-sized banner, so that anyone can produce their own wherever they prefer.
- **Pass it on.** This matters as much as putting it up. The initiative has no advertising budget: it depends on each person forwarding it to their WhatsApp groups, sharing it on social media or simply telling their neighbour. The website includes ready-made images to share and a frame for profile photos.
- **Drive the large-format reach.** A billboard, a building-sized banner, a newspaper advertisement or a leaflet drop in the neighbourhood. The website invites companies and individuals to drive this kind of reach on their own initiative, and media outlets that wish to do so to join in by giving the initiative space. Guidance and files for each format are published there.
- **Join as an association or a business.** Display it at your premises, in the shop window or on the van. The website has a specific guide for organisations.
- **Attend the gatherings on 2 September.** That day, Ceuta Day, there are citizen gatherings in several Spanish cities in support of the autonomous city, at 8 p.m. outside town halls. The association encourages people to attend with the initiative's flags.
- **Attend the II March for Dignity.**



One of the recreated images the initiative makes available to citizens so it can spread. Person-to-person sharing is the initiative's only means of propagation.

## What happens if 15 November arrives with no election called

The association is not announcing specific measures for the day after, but makes its position clear: if the deadline passes with no decree, citizen mobilisation will continue and intensify, always peacefully and within the law. It does not rule out that it may reach a scale capable of bringing the country to a standstill.

## Who is behind it

Sociedad Civil Española brings together more than a hundred associations from across Spain. Founded as Plataforma por la España Constitucional, it has spent years defending the current constitutional framework, the unity of Spain and the separation of powers.

The coordinating and press committee for this initiative is made up of Marcos de Quinto, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Amalio de Marichalar, Joaquín Villanueva, Fernando Mut, Pilar Martínez, Carlos de Palma, María Calero-Velarde and Ignacio Trillo.

## The rules of the initiative

**No vote is requested for anyone.** The initiative backs no candidacy. Its demand is that a vote be held, not who to vote for, and on that point people who voted very differently at the last election agree, including voters of the Government itself. The case for calling an election has been argued for months from positions far apart from one another, inside and outside parliament, and even from within the Government's own political circle and among its partners.

**No logos.** The posters carry no logos, brands or initials of any kind, and that is the only condition for using them: nobody may add their own.

**There is no common fund.** The artwork is made available to everyone who wants to take part, and each person produces and pays for the material they choose to display, at their copy shop, their printer or at home. The initiative does not sell, does not collect money and has no account of its own. Coordination costs are borne by the association from its members' fees.

## The poster



Available for free download at [reiniciaespana.org](https://reiniciaespana.org), in several formats and sizes.

The poster reads **ELECCIONES YA** (“elections now”), **REINICIA ESPAÑA** (“reset Spain”) and **ULTIMÁTUM CIUDADANO: 15N** (“citizens’ ultimatum: 15 November”), followed by the line “a 100% citizen initiative · no logos · [reiniciaespana.org](https://reiniciaespana.org)”.

## Free use of the poster

Media outlets may reproduce and distribute the initiative's poster **without asking permission and at no cost**, in Spain and abroad. Two conditions: that it is reproduced without modification and that Reinicia España is credited as the source.

These are two distinct uses and both are permitted. **Editorial use:** illustrating a news item, a feature or an opinion piece with the images and the poster. **Donated space:** publishing the poster as an advertisement, in print or online, giving up the space. Files are ready in the usual formats at [reiniciaespana.org/descargas.html](https://reiniciaespana.org/descargas.html).

The decision rests entirely with the outlet. The initiative does not pay for that space, offers no consideration of any kind and keeps no record of who publishes it.

## Material for the media

High-resolution images, printable posters and the initiative's artwork at [reiniciaespana.org/prensa.html](https://reiniciaespana.org/prensa.html)

Media outlets and content creators, in Spain and abroad, are authorised to use this material provided it is reproduced without modification and credited to Reinicia España.

This release is available in six languages at [reiniciaespana.org/prensa.html](https://reiniciaespana.org/prensa.html). The posters and images are at [reiniciaespana.org/descargas.html](https://reiniciaespana.org/descargas.html).

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