

## Save the Ryder Cup!

Catalonia is attractive to the world. It has an open, dynamic economy and society with lots of entrepreneurial energy. The Catalan business fabric is always eager to grow and improve and to place Catalonia on the map! One way to be attractive is to promote actions and events that can encourage sectors, companies and people from all over the world. And so, we find the Costa Brava-Barcelona candidacy for the 2031 Ryder Cup: a major project in the world of sport that represents a great opportunity in the economic, social and business sphere for the region of Girona and for Catalonia. Given that the project is advanced and has many understandings, it is surprising that the regional government of Catalunya rejects the project when its plan is still being worked on with the same government. The Spanish Government has already positioned itself in favour of it.

This project also has the support of entities such as *Barcelona Turisme*, the Provincial Council of Girona, the Regional Council of la Selva and the Local Council of Caldes de Malavella. In addition, all the Spanish Golf Federations and the golf courses of Catalonia have given their support to the candidacy. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that the General State Budget includes the participation of several Spanish ministries in the celebration of this event.

It is one of the most prestigious golf tournaments in the world and the third most important sporting event in the world after the Olympic Games and the World Football Championship. It will have a very important positive economic impact on the whole province of Girona, not only in the year when the event takes place but also before and after, and it will become an attraction? for quality tourism, enhancing tourism seasonality and improving sustainability.

From an economic and social perspective, the Ryder Cup will generate more than 1,000 additional jobs during the year of its preparation and during the event, 350 of which will be permanent at the venue. The Ryder Cup will attract more than 270,000 visitors and will have an economic impact of more than 1.3 billion euros. Barcelona, Girona and Costa Brava will be promoted worldwide as travel destinations. Top level golf tournaments and promotional events will be held in New York and Ireland before the 2031 Ryder Cup. As well as its own promotion during the tournament, which will be viewed by more than 600 million people around the world thanks to the live broadcast of the tournament for more than 2,500 hours in 180 countries around the world.

Therefore,

- We demand the support of the regional government of Catalunya, the *Generalitat de Catalunya*, so that it honours its commitment, and it completes the candidacy to host one of the most important and followed sporting competitions in the world that confronts a selection of players from Europe and the United States. We consider that it is a national project and, likewise, we ask the Catalan administration to also give its effective support to enable the realization of this project.
- We demand that the name of Catalonia is valued in the world of sport in the same way that it was done with the 1992 Olympic Games, that offered a level of prestige that we still enjoy as a country nowadays.
- We emphasize that the celebration of the Ryder Cup in Catalonia would have a great positive effect on the economy, as it would attract visitors from all over the world and would bring more than 1,300 million euros to the territory, as well as a thousand jobs. This event would also serve to promote Catalonia as a first-class tourist destination, with many tourist attractions available to visitors. It would be

an element to promote the deseasonalization of tourism and it would contribute to the sustainability of the Catalan model.

- Regarding the use of water, we regret the lack of information about it, especially in such a complicated context: we demand respect and for the demonization of this sport to stop. Since 1999, when the first PGA Catalunya golf course was inaugurated, it has been irrigated with 100% recycled water. PGA Catalunya has its own water treatment plant that regenerates the water that is consumed inside the resort, and it uses it to irrigate the golf courses.
- The water that the treatment plant receives has already been used for human, agricultural or industrial consumption and through the treatment it is used once again to irrigate the golf course. The water that is used in golf courses is not taken away from anyone, it is only re-used after human, agricultural or industrial consumption. Costa Brava was a pioneer in Catalonia and Spain in the construction of these treatment plants (more than 20 years ago) and in the use of its water for golf courses.
- We urge public administrations to defend an economic model of growth, which is sustainable and redistributive. We should bear in mind that the tourism sector covers many subsectors, from hotels to catering and transport, which could generate job opportunities for people of different educational levels and professional experience. This would be especially important for non-urban areas, where agriculture and other traditional sectors no longer offer many job opportunities.
- Last but not least, we demand that the development of projects that only aim to improve the economic and social fabric of the country is allowed, without being restrained by bureaucratic red tape, taxes and decisions that are not sound and unreliable commitments. Stability and complicity are needed to make public-private collaboration the way forward and not just a slogan.

#### **Entities adhered to the manifesto:**

- Barcelona Global
- Barcelona Turisme
- Cambra de Comerç de Barcelona
- Cambra de Contractistes d'Obres de Catalunya (CCOC)
- CECOT
- Circulo Equestre
- Col·legi d'Economistes de Catalunya
- CONFECAT
- Consell Comarcal de la Selva
- Diputació de Girona
- Fecavem
- Federació Catalana de Golf
- Federació Espanyola de Golf
- FemCAT
- FOEG
- Foment del Treball
- Gremi de Restauració de Barcelona
- ICAB
- L'Institut Agrícola Català de Sant Isidre
- UFEC
- Unió Patronal Metal·lúrgica (UPM)