

SUMMARY

Summary of Report 27/2018, relating to the elections to the Parliament of Catalonia in 2017

Barcelona, 12 December 2018

The Public Audit Office for Catalonia has issued Report 27/2018, relating to the elections to the Parliament of Catalonia held in 2017, in accordance with its Annual Programme of Activities.

The report, which was presented by the Chairman, Mr Jaume Amat, was approved by the Audit Office Board at its meeting on 20 November 2018.

The aim of the report was to offer an opinion on the regularity of the election accounts presented by the political groups which ran in the elections held on 21 December 2017 and obtained representation at the Catalan Parliament and, in the event of detecting any irregularities, to propose the non-awarding or reduction of their electoral grants.

In the Conclusions section of the report, the Audit Office notes that all the political groups required to do so submitted their election accounts to the Public Audit Office before the legally established deadline.

All the candidacies kept within the overall maximum limit for electoral expenses, and the sublimits for advertising (street advertising and advertising in the press and on private radio stations) as laid down by Spain's General Electoral Regime Organic Act (LOREG – *Ley orgánica del régimen electoral general*).

The figures relating to maximum grants and computable or justifiable electoral expenses are as follows:

Candidacy	Grant for general expenses	Grant for mailshots	Total grant
Ciutadans – Partido de la Ciudadanía (Citizens – Party of the Citizenry) (C's)	1,256,594.12	908,654.93	2,165,249.05
Junts per Catalunya (Together for Catalonia) (Junts×Cat)	1,125,876.53	613,512.79	1,739,389.32
Esquerra Republicana – Catalunya Sí (Republican Left – Catalonia Yes) (ERC-CatSí)	970,341.69	624,305.80	1,594,647.49
Partit dels Socialistes de Catalunya (Catalan Socialist Party) (PSC-PSOE)	643,789.19	852,020.74	1,495,809.93
Catalunya en Comú – Podem (Catalonia in Common – We Can) (CatComú-Podem)	312,095.23	401,980.75	714,075.98
Candidatura d'Unitat Popular (Popular Unity Candidacy) (CUP)	165,311.99	-	165,311.99
Partido Popular (People's Party) (PP)	163,910.82	-	163,910.82
Total	4,637,919.57	3,400,475.01	8,038,394.58

Amounts in euros.

Source: Prepared internally.

Based on the aim and scope of the report, the Public Audit Office makes no proposals for any reductions to or non-awarding of the election grants envisaged by electoral legislation.

The Audit Office does make some recommendations, of which the following can be highlighted:

- The legislator should enact legislation for the legal vacuum existing in respect of new forms of private funding, such as mini loans provided through digital crowd-funding platforms. This type of funding is not specifically envisaged in the legislation on party political funding or in the LOREG electoral act.
- There is a need to identify more clearly, in regulations, exactly what expenditure items can be included in advertising costs, and also to regulate formats based on information technology (web pages, online press and social networks).
- Spending on mailshots as declared by the political groups which achieved parliamentary representation came to €4,058,696.02. A further €5,239,511.52 should be added to this expenditure figure, corresponding to the amount paid by Spain's Ministry of the Interior to the Spanish Post Office for electoral mail distribution. Thus, the election's total cost relating to mailings came to €9,298,207.54, which is 54.6% of the figure for overall justified expenditure of €17,025,916.27.

An analysis of the unit costs of sending out election voting slips and envelopes showed significant differences between the various candidacies. In some cases the unit cost for a particular candidacy's mail was more than double the unit cost of others. The advisability of reducing mailing costs should be studied.

This summary is solely for information purposes. The audit report (in Catalan and Spanish) can be consulted at www.sindicatura.cat.