

EMERGENCY PLAN

for the first months in government

Barcelona is a city full of potential, with sufficient resources and an exceptional social fabric and creative capacity. However, it's an increasingly polarized city in which many people live and work in undignified conditions.

If this gap between people and neighbourhoods continues to grow, it will become increasingly difficult to make our dream of a cohesive, integrated Barcelona that can be an example for other world cities, come true.

The Convergència i Unió government has a great deal of responsibility for this commercializing drift. CiU has never had a project for the city of Barcelona, and it has favoured private interests over the common good. Only in the last 3 months, often in an improvised way, has its government started doing what it should have been doing for the last 3 years.

Barcelona En Comú wants to govern to change this situation. Therefore we propose an ambitious and doable Emergency Plan, which we will put into action during the first months of government, and which we will continue to develop with the participation of the people of Barcelona over the first year of our mandate.

Here, we set out a number of priority actions that prioritize the fight against inequality, unemployment and the commercialization of the city, and our new contract with the citizens of Barcelona. **In parallel to this Emergency Plan, Barcelona en Comú has spent months working on its broader programme with the participation of the citizens of Barcelona.**

This Emergency Plan is for everyone in Barcelona. It aims to prioritize the most vulnerable and undervalued people and neighbourhoods; those who have suffered the most from the economic crisis and the cuts,



but who have kept on organizing to face these challenges. The measures in the Emergency Plan did not fall from the sky. They are part of a collective process between the different organizations, neighbourhood and citizen platforms, as well as professionals and policy experts from the city and Barcelona en Comú.

Many of the measures we propose are cost free and can be implemented immediately. They just demand political courage and common sense.

Others will require short and medium term development, but they also require determination as they imply a drastic change to the investment priorities of the CIU government.

The main measures that we propose, for instance, to generate employment and ensure that everybody enjoys basic social rights, would mean an **investment of approximately 160 million Euros over the last three months of 2015 and first 6 months of 2016**. This figure is a reasonable proportion of the 2.4 billion city budget (of which 380 million are allocated to investments).

To do this, we propose auditing the municipal accounts inherited from the previous council, cutting unnecessary expenses, subsidies and privileges, and opting for fiscal policies that are socially and environmentally fair.

Barcelona has enough resources to tackle inequalities and to become a model of a city where people live well, in common, with respect for others and for the environment. To harness these resources, we need a credible and courageous council that is able to stand up to powerful groups that put their own interests above those of the majority, and a council that taps into the collective intelligence of the people and neighbourhoods of Barcelona.

The plan we propose is based on four basic lines of action:

1. Creating decent work and diversifying Barcelona's model of production
2. Guaranteeing basic social rights
3. Reviewing privatizations that go against the common good
- 4) Auditing public institutions and ending privileges

1. Creating decent work and diversifying Barcelona's model of production

There are approximately 100,000 unemployed people in Barcelona, half of them are long-term unemployed and almost half don't receive any unemployment benefits. Over 40% of young people are unemployed and 15% of all workers don't earn a living wage.

The CiU government, meanwhile, has opted for an economic model that increases labour insecurity and the measures it has taken have been too little and too late to tackle what is becoming a chronic problem.

To reverse this situation we need to diversify our economic activity and transform our production model to make it more socially just and environmentally sustainable. This can't be done overnight, but clear policies can be adopted

to slow and reverse the trend towards labour insecurity and privatization.

1.1. First, we will launch a training and sustainable employment programme that works in five main areas:

- a) Energy renovation of housing.
- b) Waste reduction and sustainable management.
- c) Support and strengthening of local commerce
- d) Care work, especially of children, the elderly, and those with special needs.
- e) Fostering the cooperative economy and updating it with new technologies.

The main goal of this programme is to **create 2500 jobs** in the short term. This will require an investment of approximately **50 million Euros**.

1.2. Second, we plan to introduce a municipal quality standard for city council employment contracts, as requested by the FAVB neighbourhood association and a number of labour unions. The council has to support its workers.

The City of Barcelona has a staff of 12,326, 6,456 working for the city council itself and 5,870 working in the public bodies and municipal companies. The City of Barcelona generates thousands of jobs in private companies and the third sector through its



public procurement activity. In many cases, this outsourcing to private companies leads to labour insecurity.

The goal of this plan is to use all the tools available to the council to **guarantee basic workers' rights, both for city employees and those who work in companies that provide services to the city.**

1.3. With this goal in mind, we will review all clauses of all the city council's current contracts. All new contracts signed by the council will guarantee and respect basic workers' rights and conditions (salaries, working hours, work-life balance, and the prevention of work-related accidents.

1.4. Additionally, the city council will audit employment conditions at companies currently based in Barcelona, in collaboration with health and safety inspectors and in dialogue with unions and employers, especially those in the tourism sector (more than 33.8% of enforcement proceedings in 2013 were in this sector).

2. Guaranteeing basic social rights

In order to be safe, a city must to guarantee a decent life for all of its inhabitants, starting with the most vulnerable.

To achieve this, measures to re-establish the dignity and personal autonomy of people are necessary, with **long-term predistributive and redistributive policies that allow us to build a strong set of universal, adequately financed social rights for citizens.**

We have to take back public and cooperative control of the economy. Public institutions should exercise their authority over private companies that provide services that affect the public interest.

Incentives and sanctions must be established to ensure that these companies meet their obligations.

Our Emergency Plan is based on six concrete areas:

- 2.1. The right to housing
- 2.2. The right to food
- 2.3. The right to basic utilities
- 2.4. The right to health
- 2.5. The right to mobility
- 2.6. The right to municipal income support

2.1. The right to housing

According to official data, there are an average of 15 home evictions every day in Barcelona, 80% of which are due to unpaid rent. Between 2 and 3 of these daily evictions take place in households that are socially and economically highly vulnerable.

The CiU government is responsible for this situation, partially because it voted in favour of the Express Evictions act that makes tenants without economic resources extremely vulnerable. Moreover, barely any government funds have been dedicated to resolving this emergency.

Faced with this attitude, we consider it essential to change course and dedicate the maximum amount of municipal efforts and resources to **preventing evictions for economic reasons, and to ensuring decent rehousing for those who need it, using criteria that allow people to stay in their neighbourhoods.**

To do this, we propose the following measures:

- » The establishment of a **negotiation forum with financial institutions that are evicting tenants and/or have a portfolio of vacant housing.** In the case of non-compliance with their obligations, sanctions will be imposed as recommended in the motion proposed by the Platform for People Affected by Mortgages in Barcelona (PAH BCN). This motion was adopted by the previous council but has not been applied insufficiently.
- » **Support for social workers to ensure that families threatened with eviction have access to all available resources.**



Revoke the current emergency housing launch diligence protocol, as social service professionals are recommending, and draw up, in a participatory way, a new and inclusive emergency housing protocol.

- » Push for **vacant housing to be ceded to the City of Barcelona to increase the stock of affordable social housing.**
- » Create a committee to **study the possibility of declaring Barcelona an area of first-refusal**, allowing the city council to have priority in the purchase and sale of housing at below market rates.
We suggest an initial investment of **50 million Euros** to fund these measures.

2.2. The right to food

The right to food is a fundamental and universal human right, without exceptions. It is especially important in the case of children and teenagers.

Due to the economic crisis, one in five children in Barcelona is at risk of poverty. In 2013, 2,865 children in Barcelona were malnourished. During the course of 2014-2015, 4,639 applications for school meal vouchers were turned down for falling short of criteria established by the current council.

The CiU government has announced the creation of a 9.2 million Euro social fund to support vulnerable children. However, this fund was created for electoral reasons, implemented haphazardly and thought of as a welfare

handout rather than as a way to guarantee a basic right.

To counter this style of politics, we commit to **guarantee the right to food all year for all children and teenagers below the poverty line.**

With this in mind we want to:

- » Strengthen **canteen services** in nursery schools, high schools and other educational and social institutions.
- » **Increase the number of free places with food services at summer camps and other summer education services** to make sure that all children have food security during the summer holidays.
- » Strengthen existing food distribution channels that don't stigmatize recipients, such as the **food partnership card** (*tarjeta solidaria de alimentos*).
- » Review the access criteria for school meal vouchers so that applications from households with financial difficulties are not turned down, thereby creating universal school meal vouchers that are allocated as quickly as possible.
An initial investment of **20 million Euros** will be made to carry out these measures.

2.3. The right to basic utilities

It is estimated that 10% of households in Barcelona (around 80,000) are suffering from energy poverty, meaning they struggle to pay their electricity, water and gas bills.

This is in stark contrast to the excessive profits made by utility companies and, due to a lack of effective measures by the Catalan government led by CiU1, which has recently appealed to the charity of private companies and citizens in order to alleviate this problem.

To achieve a Barcelona where nobody goes thirsty, cold or without electricity, we plan to:

- » Carry out a **cost analysis of these utilities** to determine the origin and destination of

their profits and hold a negotiation with these companies to ensure they help to guarantee the right to basic utilities.

- » Introduce **fair tariffs for water** and **research the possibility of remunicipalizing our water services.**
- » Levy taxes on electricity companies for their use of public space and set up pilot programs with **renewable energy providers.**
- » Create a special **5 million Euro** fund to deal with the most urgent cases of energy poverty.

2.4. The right to health

Housing insecurity and eviction are having a negative impact on the health of the population and inequalities between the neighbourhoods of Barcelona are growing. This, combined with the cuts and privatizations undertaken by the CiU government of Catalonia, is unsustainable.

Additionally, it is estimated that some 6,000 registered migrants are not covered by public health insurance. This is before considering people who don't have access to adequate healthcare because they are unregistered.

Active policies are needed to register everyone who lives in Barcelona and to ensure their right to healthcare.

The new city council will take measures to guarantee that public health clinics in Barcelona comply with their legal obligation to ensure residents' right to publicly funded emergency healthcare (*CatSalut*), as well as all healthcare for minors and pregnant women.

To guarantee these rights we commit to:

- » Use the voice of the city council in the Catalan Healthcare Consortium to **pressure the Catalan government to reverse its current policy of cuts and privatizations.**
- » Launch campaigns to provide assistance to the most vulnerable and **remove communication materials from public**

hospitals and health clinics that dissuade patients from using public healthcare services.

- » These costs should be covered by the Catalan government, but we will create a fund of approximately **5 million Euros** to fund these policies.

2.5. The right to mobility

The city council must support the right to mobility to ensure social cohesion and health in Barcelona. To guarantee that mobility is sustainable, it must tackle the serious pollution problem in the city, and using public transport must be cheaper and more efficient than using private transport.



This has not been the policy of CiU. The price hikes of public transport in 2014 punished those who use it to travel to study, work or look for work. This year price of the elderly travel card and the T-10 have been lowered by 35 cents. However, the majority of transport tickets remain excessively high in relation to the average purchasing power of the population, especially for the poorest groups. During the harshest years of the economic crisis, the cost of public transport has risen by over 20%.

D'altra banda, propostes com la nova targeta T-Mobilitat o la possible privatització d'un tram de la línia 9 són dos exemples de la manera com CiU vol posar el patrimoni públic en mans de grans grups privats.

At the same time, proposals like the new *T-Mobilitat* transport card and the possible

privatization of parts of the Metro line 9 are examples of CiU's desire to transfer public assets to large private companies.

To deal with this, we propose three main lines of action in the short and medium term:

» Push the ATM (Metropolitan Transport Authority) to **convert the T-12 transport card (which allows children up to 12 years old to travel for free) into a T-16 card and to extend current discounts on the T-Trimestre (an 80% discount and free travel for 3 months) to all people registered as unemployed for at least 3 months, who have resided in Barcelona for at least 3 months and who have an income below the minimum wage (currently only people registered as unemployed for over 12 months during the last two years are eligible for discounts). We'll also provide the option to pay for the discounted ticket in two instalments (15 Euros on applying and 15 Euros at the end of the period).**

» Champion a **T-Ambiental transport card** within the ATM: a flat rate of 50 Euros per month for all transport in 3 zones. The T-Ambiental would be valid on the Metro, suburban trains, bus, FGC trains and tram, as well as car-sharing and Barcelona Bicing.

» Open a procurement process, in the first 100 days of government, for the **design and development of a tram along the Diagonal.**

» **Re-establish the ecological tax on private car use that the government of Xavier Trias axed the moment he took office.**

2.6. The right to municipal income support

1 in 5 children in Barcelona live in poverty. In 2014, 5,000 people were denied the Minimum Income Benefit (Renta Mínima de Inserción (RMI)). To help alleviate this situation, the CiU government has announced that it will create a monthly 100 Euro subsidy for all vulnerable children below the age of 16. This measure is seen as charity, as a benefit with considerable

discretionary criteria, rather than as a universal or long-term programme.

It its place, we will:

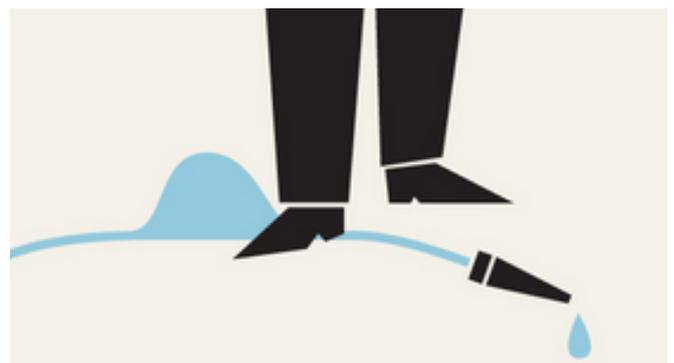
» Introduce **Municipal Income Support** for all families below the poverty line, in addition to the support they already receive, in order to ensure an income equivalent to 60% of the average wage in Barcelona (approximately 600 Euros).

» Champion, from Barcelona, a **Guaranteed Citizens Income** in Catalonia.

We commit to an initial investment of **25 million Euros** to implement these policies.

La protecció contra la pobresa energètica aprovada pel Govern de la Generalitat a través d'un decret –suspès pel Tribunal Constitucional– el 2013 només va cobrir 900 persones. El nou decret aprovat a finals de 2014 –i actualment en vigor– ha cobert fins ara poc més d'un centenar d'afectades.

3. Review privatizations and projects that go against the common good



Along with measures to combat the current social emergency, we should stop or reverse privatizations and projects that do not serve the common good and start creating new forms of public-cooperative-community partnerships.

Many of CiU's projects have actually been a waste of public money, as that they haven't benefited the community, were undertaken in a less than

transparent fashion without a proper debate, and went against the wishes of the neighbourhoods. Reversing this requires distinguishing between different assumptions, studying legal strategies and prioritizing the most flagrant cases.

In this context we will put forward the following measures:

3.1. Place an immediate moratorium on new hotels and holiday apartments (like the Deutsche Bank project or the Ciutat Vella, Gracia and Poble Sec neighbourhood usage plans) **until there is an audit with citizen participation and a city-wide tourism plan.**

3.2. Halt or review the participation of public bodies in private business projects such as the Sagrera Kids or Zona Franca Ski Slope projects.

3.3. Halt or review the expansion of large shopping centres such as La Maquinista or Heron City.

3.4. Halt or review privatization or outsourcing processes that go against the common good, such as the Caspolino, Jaen and Patufets daycare centres, the city carpark network or those currently taking place at the Parks and Gardens Institute.

3.5. Investigate and renegotiate the terms and conditions of questionable concessions, such as the Marina de Lux at Port Vell and the T-Mobilitat transport card.

4. Wiping the slate clean and ending perks and privileges

An Emergency Plan such as this one requires a real audit and analysis of our public institutions and inherited city accounting books, so that we can put an end to bad practices and create less bureaucratic, more efficient institutions with more citizen involvement to solve the real problems of the people who live in Barcelona.

To keep our word, it is important to develop, from the start, a clear will to wipe the slate clean, end perks and privileges, and practise



what we preach. We also have to actively involve citizens in overseeing the completion of this plan, harnessing and reinforcing existing spaces of activism and participation, both formal and informal.

To be specific, we commit to:

4.1. Reduce the salaries of council members and top political officials, get rid of official cars and unnecessary expenses (for instance those paid for attending meetings) along the lines already established in the **Barcelona en Comú Code of Political Ethics.**

4.2. Audit the main public bodies responsible for the promotion of economic and social activities in Barcelona (such as the Feria de Barcelona or the Consorcio de Zona Franca) reviewing the financial support given by the city council and strengthening the role of social institutions and public-cooperative partnerships.

4.3. Review unnecessary subsidies in this context of social emergency (such as the 16 million Euro subsidy granted to the Formula 1 race track in Montmeló).

4.4. Review and extend the spaces in which citizens can participate in the oversight of this Emergency Plan in each of the city districts. These local spaces will gather existing best

practices, be given adequate technical support and enjoy real and effective political powers.

As is the case with the measures with a more socio-economic character, all these participatory processes and audits will be budgeted for and funded.

Conclusions

Dedicating the maximum amount effort and resources to this Emergency Plan is not only possible, it is essential if we want to avoid a breakdown in social cohesion and the community bonds that should be the hallmark of our city.

The 160 million Euros that it would cost to implement this plan are a modest part of the 2015 budget, and can be achieved by making changes to existing loans and the new 2016 budget.

To do this, we need to change public investment and spending priorities. The budget approved by the CiU government are austere when it comes to investing in social programs but spend excessive amounts on administration, publicity and unsustainable economic sectors. These priorities need to be reordered immediately. This means a fair and efficient reinvestment of **the millions of Euros currently being wasted on unnecessary subsidies and projects, the inflated salaries of top public servants, excessive publicity and other untransparent areas that will be audited immediately.**

We're not talking about costs, we're talking about a vital investment in the present and the future of the city and its inhabitants. An Emergency Plan that generates decent and sustainable jobs, ends benefits as charity, and strengthens universal social rights, allowing those that feel abandoned and ignored by public institutions to live a dignified life, liberating their creative potential and creating

incentives for them to contribute to the common good.

We love Barcelona and want to continue with what is being done well and reverse the drift towards speculation and privatization seen in recent years. To achieve this, everybody needs to be involved in building an integrating, participatory, democratic and sustainable city and the vitality of citizen and neighbourhood movements must be harnessed. If we are able to imagine a city that is economically active, caring, sustainable, and where people and communities work together, we have the power to make it happen.

1. The protection against energy poverty, approved by decree in 2013 by the Catalan government, has helped only 900 people. The new decree that came in to force at the end of 2014 has so far only helped a little over 100 people affected by energy poverty.
2. The 2015 budget has various areas that are eligible for a revision. To start with, 27.5 million Euros are spent on the various governmental institutions, with expenses such as 3.2 Euros in basic salaries for members of government institutions or 2.1 million in expenses. Moreover, 13 million Euros budgeted for publicity and public communications.

In the chapter of the current council budget on investments, **139.4 million Euro are reserved for investment in roads**, a lot more than the 10.1 million Euros invested in housing or the 19.1 million Euros invested in social programs. Out of the 15 lowest income neighbourhoods of Barcelona, 11 receive investments below city average. The costs of beautifying the luxury avenues of Barcelona, 16 million Euro, is far higher than the 6.3 million Euros spent on housing renovation, or the 4.8 million Euros planned for new nurseries and preschools. Additionally, it remains unclear which economic sectors benefit from the **81 million Euros budgeted for economic development.**