Secessionist movements in Europe have become more visible in recent years. From Catalonia and Scotland to Kurdistan and Kosovo, nations have tried to secede from their host states with varying degrees of success. These challenges represent the aspirations of stateless nations to gain independence, and they have value. But they also represent challenges to political order both within states and across the international system. In normative terms, this is contest between the right of stateless nations to self-determination and the right of states to maintain their territorial integrity.

Violence has been historically used to resolve territorial disputes but in recent decades there has been a noticeable shift to peaceful means, possibly because its effectiveness. The dynamics of secession (and counter-secession) have been radically transformed and a wide range of experts in think tanks and academia are now examining the dyadic relationship at the local, national, and international levels. Regrettably, much less attention has been devoted to examining the interactions between the domestic and international level and how these affect the development, mobilization, and strategies practiced by contemporary secessionist movements.

This workshop will examine the ways in which the strategies of secession and counter-secession have been shaped by international politics. The participants will be invited to answer the following research questions. How does domestic support interact with the international context? What are the strategies that secessionist movements adopt when seeking independence, and how do they vary? How do secessionist leaders gain legitimacy in the eyes of their local, national, and international audiences, and does the success at one level compromise success at the other? How do changes in international norms and great power politics influence the strategies and success rates of independence efforts? How do regional organizations like the European Union affect secessionist outcomes?

To answer all these questions based on specific case studies, CIDOB has decided to organize two activities: first, the conference “Nations and States in Europe: The Catalan Case” that will take place on October 5th at CCCB and, second, an international seminar on the topic “Secession and counter-secession: An International Relations Perspective” on October 6th at CIDOB. Both events will gather world-renowned experts and will analyse country case studies in a comparative perspective as well as establishing transnational networks of knowledge and dialogue in this respective area.
Nations and States in Europe: The Catalan Case

5th October 2017
Place: CCCB, Carrer de Montalegre, 5, 08001 Barcelona
Time: 18.30h – 20.30h
Organised by: CIDOB
In collaboration with: CCCB

18.30 Welcome
Vicenç Villatoro, Director, CCCB
Antoni Segura, President, CIDOB

18.40 The Catalan Case: Recent Evolution and International Implications
Ferran Requejo, Professor of Political Science, Pompeu Fabra University (UPF)
Pere Vilanova, Professor of Political Science, University of Barcelona (UB); and Associate Senior Researcher, CIDOB

19.30 Round table: Institutional Legal Framework
Moderates: Vicenç Villatoro, Director, CCCB
Xavier Arbós, Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Barcelona (UB)
Mercè Barceló, Professor of Constitutional Law, Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB)
Ferran Requejo, Professor of Political Science, Pompeu Fabra University (UPF)
Pere Vilanova, Professor of Political Science, University of Barcelona (UB); and Associate Senior Researcher, CIDOB

20.30 Closure

Language: Catalan-English with translation
Secession and counter-secession: An International Relations Perspective

6th October 2017
Place: CIDOB, Sala Jordi Maragall, Carrer Elisabets, 12, 08001 Barcelona
Time: 09.00h – 17.00h
Organised by: CIDOB

09.00 Welcome
Jordi Bacaria, Director, CIDOB

09.15 The International System and the European Union
Moderates: Diego Muro, Lecturer in International Relations, University of St Andrews; Senior Research Associate, CIDOB

Strategies of Secession and Counter Secession
Diego Muro, Lecturer in International Relations, University of St Andrews; Senior Research Associate, CIDOB

How do States respond to Secession? Dynamics of State Recognition
Bridget L. Coggins, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of California Santa Barbara

The Role of Referendums: Legal Requirements, Processes and Outcomes
Matt Qvortrup, Professor of Political Science, Coventry University

Secessionist Movements and the European Union
Bruno Coppieters, Head of the Department of Political Science, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

11.15 Coffee Break

11.30 Secessionist Strategies: Case Studies
Moderates: Jordi Bacaria, Director, CIDOB

Scotland
Nicola McEwen, Professor of Territorial Politics, University of Edinburgh

Flanders
Bart Maddens, Full professor of Political Science, University of Leuven

Quebec
André Lecours, Professor, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa

Autonomy and Self-Government in Denmark: The case of Greenland and the Faroe Islands
Gestur Hovgaard, Associate Professor, University of the Faroe Islands

14.30 Counter-secessionist Strategies: Case Studies
Moderates: Eckart Woertz, Senior Research Fellow and Research Coordinator, CIDOB

The Creation and Recognition of States in International Law
Tom Grant, Lecturer, University of Cambridge

Why do Governments deny Secession in some Cases but not others?
Ryan Griffiths, Senior Lecturer, Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney
Foreign Policy of Counter-Secession: Cyprus
James Ker-Lindsay, Professor of Politics and Policy, St Mary's University

Conflict and Autonomy in the Federal System of Germany
Roland Sturm, Chair of Political Science, Friedrich-Alexander Erlangen-Nuremberg University

16.30 Concluding remarks
Antoni Segura, President, CIDOB

17.00 End of conference

Language: Catalan-English with translation