

Dear Dr. de Lara Fernandes,

I am writing to you following the conversation you had earlier this week Elisabeth Caravaca from the CCIB Project Management Team.

I understand that you have expressed some minor concerns over the current situation in Catalonia, and how the situation may affect the celebration of The CMR 2018 Congress that will take place in early 2018 with us here in Barcelona at the CCIB.

I apologise for the length of this email, but I am trying to be as open and honest as possible, and also as neutral as possible.

As you know, Catalonia is currently facing a complex political situation that came about after Catalan President, Carles Puigdemont, allowed to vote in a referendum to establish a 'Catalan republic as an independent and sovereign state'.

This referendum was held on October 1st in Catalonia. Spain's Supreme Court declared this vote illegal and said it violated the Spanish Constitution, which describes the country as indivisible. After the referendum, Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont made moves towards independence. After an emergency cabinet meeting on Saturday 21st October, Mariano Rajoy - Spain's President- decided on the measures that were approved a few days later by Spain's Senate. Since then, the developments have involved the jailing of various people that have been identified by the government as the Principals responsible for the independence movement, and also the jailing of some Catalan officials. The President of Catalonia, has been removed as the head of the Catalan Autonomous region, and is now in Brussels pending the next steps. There is a certain sense of frustration in Catalonia, and Barcelona, as public opinion is divided.

Spanish government has for now taken control of Catalonian administrations temporarily, it has dissolved its parliament and announced new regional elections taking place the 21st of December 2017. The aim of these measurements is to bring the political status back into line with the Spanish Central Government, and its constitution. After the elections, a period of negotiations at governments' level will be required to discuss the main subjects that brought us to the situation we are currently in. What the future holds for Catalonia from a political point of view is still an open case, and very much in the hands of the politicians.

Beyond the news headlines, this strictly political issue is not altering the everyday city life. Barcelona continues to be a well-organized and welcoming city, ranked among the top twenty safest cities in the world. The population remain faithful to their peaceful and positive character; economic and cultural events are running as planned.

Your question about, how the Governmental uncertainty has affected us, or could affect us is a valid and understandable question. The truth of the matter is, from the instigation of article 155, our day to day practise and activity has not been affected at all. The CCIB is a public building, but is managed privately thus know as GL Events CCIB. Our contract with the local authorities is a long-term agreement, and we have years left on our lease. We do not expect any immediate or long term affects to us, or our operation. It is business as usual.

From an event hosting point of view, our interactions with local authorities whether it is the Town Council, the Local Police (Policia Local, or Mossos D'esquadra) has remained exactly the same, and we are able to liaise with these bodies and guarantee a normal level of security for all event attendees, and participants. Barcelona is open, operational and safe.

In relation to how I can fore see things unfolding; The situation is less tense in general, and whilst there are Public demonstrations they remain peaceful and disruption is seems to be minimal and isolated to specific areas.

As far as we are concerned and answering your question, the legislation and our responsibilities remain the same as always, hence our contractual T&C and responsibilities with Barcelo, ESC and EACVI for The CMR 2018 Congress event in January 2018 remain 100% the same. In addition, it's important to understand that the CCIB is a privately run business and venue. Whilst the building is a public building, our activities or jurisdiction in the venue are in no way affected by the current situation.

The fact that you have made the effort to contact us, and ask the questions is comforting, and I appreciate the partnership our teams have created. Your enquiries about the operational effects on events, and delegate experiences in Barcelona are also well founded. As a Venue we take our responsibilities extremely seriously. So far all our events have taken place without any incidents, examples of these are the International EuroFinance Conference, with more than 2,100 High level Financial Executives as attendees. This event, which we hosted at the start of October coincided with the referendum on the 1st Oct, and experienced a one-day general strike of the 3rd of October. It was the third edition of the event at the CCIB and organizers were completely satisfied with our performance; they have already asked for new dates in the forthcoming years. The Event had record attendance, and had no negative effects on their event.

As I write this email, we have just celebrated the 7th Edition of the Gartner ITXpo Symposium. This event brings together over 9000 IT professionals, and CIO's from across the globe. The event has continued so far with absolute normality. The delegate attendance is also at record numbers.

The Challenge we have had today, is that there is a general strike called by some minority unions. There has been some disruptions with traffic and access to the city, this has caused MINOR delays for some of the attendees that have needed to cross the city. We have so far not registered any incidents or adverse effects during previous general strikes held in Spain, we have managed to achieve this because of many factors.

Detailed contingency plans. Our plans are designed to anticipate material and personal resources to ensure the maximum level of material, stock and produce is in the building before any potential strike risk is confirmed or officially comes into practise. This involves careful planning and coordination with clients, and above all our suppliers.

We are also privileged to have in general a low response of our staff to the call for strike, where some strike action has been necessary, we have been able to manage this to ensure that the client and the event has in no way been effected.

Moreover, in terms of security, we benefit from our privileged location, far enough from the city centre where the demonstrations usually take place. We work in complete partnership with our clients. If there

is the remotest possibility of strike action, or demonstrations we pride ourselves on working with you to keep you informed and up to date on the situation.

I hope this email works in some way to ease your concerns, and you can use this to ease those concerns of your clients and major stakeholders

If you have any questions, or queries related to this, or other matters you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate in approaching anyone of us.

We are here to help and support you in whatever we can

Very best regards

Phil Cross

Head of Sales - www.ccib.es