



★ NETWORKING EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

*Comment of **Edurne Grau**, Coordinator at the **Fundación Cives** (Spain) concerning the process of the Memorandum to the Council of Europe regarding the Spanish Government's project to remove Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education in school curriculum (18 October 2013)*

The new Spanish education law has been approved in the Parliament last week. Spanish government has a very weak concept of democracy: they have done this reform by themselves with neither social dialogue nor agreement with the educational community. The proof of it is that there is a huge popular opposition to this law for many reasons (citizenship education is only a small part of it). With this situation all parliamentary groups in the opposition have signed a commitment to remove the law as soon as the Popular Party loses their absolute majority, which will probably be on 2015.

We are very happy though with the Commissioner's report. Europe is officially blaming the Spanish government for removing citizens' education from the official curriculum and that has been because of the petition of the Spanish and European NGO's. We would like to thank all EU organisations that have helped us with this (and we will still appreciate more support from any organization). It is very helpful for us because the conservative sectors and church in Spain have always sold the idea that this kind of education was a Spanish socialist invention to brainwash the kids.

We have the intention to continue the fight at EU levels. We believe that this cannot happen: a EU member cannot just leave a common European project and break all the work done to share democratic education basis in schools all over Europe. European citizenship requires shared civic values. We need to have stronger tools in Europe that prevent this from happening (not only recommendations of the Council of Europe) so that's what we will be fighting for now!

