

**The puntCAT Foundation appeared before the National Court to find out the reasons for blocking the tsunamidemocràtic.cat website**

* **The puntCAT Foundation intervenes to protect the correct use of the network and the right of Catalan-speaking users to use the Internet as a neutral, censorship-free network.**
* **Andreu Van den Eynde is the lawyer who will coordinate the legal defence.**

The puntCAT Foundation has announced today at a press conference that it has appeared before the National Court in order to find out the reasons that caused/triggered the adoption of the injunction issued on 18 October 2019 by the Central Court of Instruction No. 6, which ordered the operators to block access to the Tsunamidemocratic.cat website from IP addresses located in Spain.

In a letter to the National Court, the puntCAT Foundation asked to know the reasons why the blocking injunction was issued and stated the need to ensure respect for the fundamental rights and the operability of .cat domain names.

The puntCAT Foundation recalls that any violation of freedom of speech is only acceptable when provided for by law and based on the existence of criteria for limiting fundamental rights that are not disproportionate, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights.

The legal defence will be coordinated by criminal lawyer Andreu Van den Eynde.

*“We have no direct knowledge of the reasons that have prompted the National Court to urge operators to block this domain. We lack information, we do not know the legal reasoning,”* Carles Salvadó, President of the puntCAT Foundation, noted.

The puntCAT Foundation, as the entity managing .cat Internet domains, has promoted this action in order to uphold the right of Catalan-speaking users to use the Internet as a neutral, censorship-free network. According to Carles Salvadó: "The puntCAT Foundation must ensure that any intervention on the network is done by protecting the fundamental rights of its users."

**About the puntCAT Foundation:**

Private non-profit entity managing the .cat Internet domain. It aims to promote activities related to the management and promotion of the .cat domain, to boost Catalan identity and the normalisation of the use of Catalan on the Internet and in the ICT sector and to strengthen the Catalan-speaking information society. The **.cat domain** was launched on 15 September 2005 and was the first 1st level domain to be associated with a linguistic and cultural community.

For further information:

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