

SPEECH OF Mr. CARLES A. GASÒLIBA.

RAMON TRIAS FARGAS MEMORIAL 2010.

President of the *Friedrich Naumann Stiftung Für Die Freiheit*.

Sra. Cònsol General d'Alemanya a Barcelona.

Patrons i Membres de la Fundació Llibertat i Democràcia, Grup Català de la Internacional Liberal

Diputats al Parlament de Catalunya i del Senat Espanyol

Regidors de l'Ajuntament de Barcelona

Amigues i amics,

Today, we are commemorating the "*Ramon Trias Fargas Memorial 2010*". We express our recognition to the memory of professor Ramon Trias Fargas, a capital reference for the Catalan liberalism.

The Memorial awards an individual or institution that has shown a clear promotion of the liberal ideas and values in different fields, political, social, academic... We are awarding those that have support the liberal principles, the democracy, human rights, individual development, civil society, market economy, tolerance, the ones that as a good liberal Ramon Trias Fargas supporter and defended along his life. During the very hard times of the Franco's dictatorship, and in the starting and consolidation of the Spanish democracy, and the Catalan institutions from the first elections to the Catalan Parliament in 1980. He served them as Minister of Economy in the Catalan Government, member of Spanish Parliament and Senator, and head of the opposition in Barcelona's City Council.

He died, 21 years ago, serving and defending his liberal ideals in an electoral meeting. We are commemorating our 15th Ramon Trias Fargas Memorial. Let me remember some ones as Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Simone Veil, David Steel, Antonio Garrigues Walker, Colin Eglin, Bronislaw Geremek,...

We like to remember the first awarded in 1996, Mr. Juan Marichal, a professor that have devoted his life to the Spanish history in modern and contemporary times. He specialised in the liberal ideas and political developments of that ones, across the Spanish political developments in XIX and XX century. He was considered the best specialist of the life of the President of the 2nd Spanish Republic, Manuel Azaña. He exiled and became professor in the Harvard University. He died last summer in his house of Cuernavaca, Mexico, where he retired.

I ask you to devote a remember of him. (1 minute)..... Thanks.

Our Foundation has decided to award this year the Ramon Trias Fargas Memorial to the *Friedrick Naumann Stiftung Für die Freiheit*, given its contribution to the promotion and defense of the liberal ideas and values around the world.

Mr. Josep Soler, Vice President of the Llibertat i Democràcia Foundation and Bureau Member of the Liberal International, will present the FN Foundation. It's President, Dr. Wolfgang Gerhardt, will receive the Memorial.