Dear Editor,

“Let’s recover our common sense” and stop reducing complex problems like the constitutional status of Catalonia or our own relationship with the EU, to a blunt choice of just two supposedly mutually exclusive opposites.  (Catalonia's 'silent majority' take to streets, 9 Oct.)  We could start by reading the works of Ramón Llull, the Majorcan who, 700 years ago, suggested a better voting procedure would be multi-optional and preferential.

Let us further remember that the EU has made some terrible mistakes, as for example, when the Badinter Commission insisted on a plebiscite in Bosnia, or when in Kiev, it promoted majority rule up until the very day Viktor Yanukovich fled into exile.  In fact, of course, “all the wars in the former Yugoslavia started with a referendum,” (*Oslobodjenje*, 7.2.1999), and the same is now true of the conflict in Ukraine.

Yours