The universities' Principals refused to attend the Universities Council

The universities' Principals decided not to attend the Universities Council scheduled last May 23rd, in the afternoon. The Council was chaired by the Minister for Education, Culture and Sports, José Ignacio Wert. Instead, the Principals issued a statement that can be read below.

The document states:

'The Conference of Spanish University Principals, CRUE, celebrated its General Assembly last May 4th in Murcia. On that occasion, it was decided to hold an extraordinary universities council in order to discuss one point: the Royal Decree-Law 14/2012, dated April 20th, and the enormous opposition expressed by the universities before its application. 59 Principals agreed on that meeting.

Surprisingly enough, the Principals were called for an extraordinary universities council, but the agenda did not include this central point, on the contrary several matters of routine were added. Moreover, the question and answer session was omitted, avoiding this way any debate and further reflection.

Despite this, CRUE – in an effort to open a dialogue – informed the Minister for Education, Culture and Sports its desire to attend that universities council, which was scheduled yesterday, providing that he stated his commitment to hold the extraordinary universities council requested where the Royal Decree-Law would be discussed. In view of the Minister's silence and rejection, the Principals decided not to attend the universities council's meeting yesterday, even though it entailed an infringement of the council's regulation. The Principals understand the Minister reaction as a total lack of respect for all the university community, its students, lecturers and administrative staff.

Finally, in the absence of a reply, the Principals are going to request an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister.'

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