



photographer Lluís Brunet

Vicent Sanchis 

Valencian journalist in Barcelona

# What Catalans Want

Next new state in europe

Toni Strubell

Vicent Sanchis Llàcer was born in Valencia in 1961 and is one of many influential Valencians who have made it to the top in Barcelona.<sup>1</sup> He graduated in Communication Studies at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and currently teaches journalism at the Universitat Ramon Llull in Barcelona. He's also vice-president of the prestigious 20,000-member strong cultural association Òmnium Cultural, an organisation which, as its motto says, “*works for the country, the language and the culture of the Catalans*”. Òmnium was responsible for calling the million-strong July 10th demonstration in 2010. Sanchis was certainly one of the visible faces behind the march's success.

Sanchis has been the editor, amongst other publications, of the magazine *El Temps* and the newspaper *Avui*, both of which were founded after Franco's death. He currently directs the television channel of FC Barcelona, *Barça TV*, and contributes to a number of publications. He would love to hear more Catalan spoken in the streets of his home city, Valencia, like when he was a boy. “*But that's just a dream,*” he fears, “*as it's been replaced by Spanish, and it would seem the process is irreversible.*” It was with an essay entitled “Franco against Flash Gordon” that he won the last Joan Fuster prize, one of the most prestigious in the Catalan literary world. It deals with two issues that he's fascinated by: the censorship of comics and Francoism.

<sup>1</sup> Other examples would be ex-Generalitat Minister Carles Solà, Vilaweb on-line newspaper editor Vicent Partal (interviewed in the book), and writer Isabel-Clara Simó.

