

**Question for written answer  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Scandal on espionage and sabotage operations against political opponents in Spain

A scandal has surfaced in Spain with the possible involvement, directly or indirectly, of political ruling parties as well as part of the national media. These facts represent a serious attack to the rule of law and to free political participation.

The scandal involves espionage and sabotage operations against political opponents, allegedly orchestrated by the Spanish Interior Ministry during the administration of former Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy (Popular Party) and it was carried out by high ranking police officials together with part of the national media.

The arrival of "Podemos" in the European Parliament in 2014 with five MEPs and the opinion polls on a rising trend in subsequent elections, may be the reasons behind these dirty war operations against political rivals.

The fabrication of damning evidence to create an intoxication campaign, the theft of a mobile phone from a parliamentary assistant of Pablo Iglesias days after leaving her seat in Brussels, are all part of the events known as the "cesspit of the Spanish state".

Given this blunt violation of fundamental rights and the rule of law in Spain, what measures does the Commission intend to take as a guarantor of respect for the EU values and legislation?