

**Question for written answer E-006611/2014/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Legality of electoral reform proposed in Spain

The Spanish Government has said it plans changes to the current electoral system, less than one year before the next local elections, the aim being that the leader of the party winning the most votes in a municipality shall be directly elected as mayor. Spain's other political parties have rejected this proposal outright.

The Handbook for European Union Election Observation sets out good practices vital to ensuring the election process is genuine and democratic. It states that 'the process for adopting election-related laws is expected to have been undertaken in a manner that ensures broad support for the legal framework for elections' and that this shall be 'established well ahead of the start of the election process (preferably one year before)'.

1. The European Union has a mission to promote democracy. Does the Commission believe that a Member State breaking codes of internationally relevant, good electoral practice is consistent with this mission?