

**Question for written answer E-010266/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Uncontrolled antifraud unit to track down cases of corruption in Catalonia

On 30 November 2014 a number of media sources published reports on the existence of a secret Spanish National Police unit solely engaged in searching for information on alleged irregularities and offences of Catalan politicians. It was claimed that the unit's purpose was to use that information and the alleged irregularities for political ends. It was suggested that the unit was camouflaged within two existing units: planning and strategy, and internal affairs. The reports alleged that this unit was acting beyond the bounds of judicial control and outside its remit and had recruited Catalan-speaking officers with experience in investigating revenue offences.

In its Treaties, the European Union recognises freedom, democracy and the rule of law as among its founding values. Article 20 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights recognises that everyone is equal before the law.

Will the Commission urge the Spanish Government to provide further information on this matter?

Does the Commission think that investigating cases of corruption outside the legal framework is in keeping with the democratic principle of transparency?

What proposals does the Commission have to promote the equality of citizens before the law and before the action of the police?