

**Question for written answer E-004104/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Luis de Grandes Pascual (PPE) and Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE)**

Subject: Recommendations in the fight against illicit trafficking in Gibraltar

Following two technical visits – in September 2013 and July 2014 – to the Gibraltar border control post, the Commission sent letters on 30 July to both Spain and the United Kingdom with various further recommendations in addition to those transmitted after the first technical visit in 2013. These recommendations were to be applied within three months of the letters being received. Spain replied on 5 November 2014 to explain the measures it had adopted.

However, far from getting better, cooperation on the part of the local Gibraltar authorities appears to be in decline. For instance, on 24 April 2014 a member of the Spanish Marine Civil Guard was injured in an incident with the Royal Gibraltar Police just when the Civil Guard officers were in the process of detaining a vessel involved in tobacco smuggling. This lack of cooperation in the fight against smuggling demands tighter controls on the part of Spain both at the border and in the surrounding waters, in view of the increase in such illegal trafficking.

What is the Commission's view of the degree of compliance by the United Kingdom with the Commission's recommendations concerning the fight against illicit trafficking in Gibraltar following the two technical visits referred to above?