

Question for written answer E-000210/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Louis Aliot (ENF)

Subject: Catalan independence

The inauguration of Catalonia's new secessionist President signals the beginning of a period of great instability for Spain, a country already weakened by a severe economic crisis and growing political uncertainty.

Separatists are clearly in the minority in Catalonia and Spain's democratic political forces uphold the Constitution, support Spanish unity, and are unsympathetic towards separatist and extremist movements. Against this background, what view does the Commission take of this state of affairs, given that Spain is a sovereign nation and receives a substantial amount of EU funding?

Does it intend to back the Spanish Government in supporting Spanish unity, or will it instead open a dialogue with the new leader of the separatist Catalan Government?

Would independence for Catalonia mean its immediate exit from the EU?