

**Question for written answer E-000615/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Poland

The developments that have unfolded in Poland since the Law and Justice party took control of the Polish Government are worrying. The reform curbing the power of the Constitutional Court (which Prime Minister Szydło treats as a political organ), the policing of private communication, the drastic 'lustration' of the media and the persecution of private individuals point towards a grave deterioration of democracy in the country.

During the debate of 20 January 2016 in Strasbourg on the situation in Poland, only the Eurosceptic and ultra-conservative groups (those who oppose the principles and values that define the EU) supported the Polish Government's fundamentalist stance. The insulting declarations that have been expressed publicly by members of the Polish Government, and which are at odds with democratic tolerance, are disgraceful.

The Commission has launched an operation to gather information on the situation, in which EU citizens are being deprived of their rights and freedoms.

How big is the operation, and what steps can the Commission take?

What is Parliament's role in the process?