

**Question for written answer E-003876/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

María Teresa Giménez Barbat (ALDE)

Subject: Language-based discrimination in Catalonia and fines against businesses

According to its own calculations, in 2015, the Government of the Autonomous Community of Catalonia (Generalitat de Catalunya) in Spain collected up to EUR 140 000 in fines imposed on private businesses for labelling their products in Spanish rather than Catalan.

The appeals by the individuals concerned before the Catalan Government itself and the Spanish Constitutional Court have yet to be heard.

Spanish is one of the EU's 24 official languages. The Charter of Fundamental Rights stipulates that the EU must respect linguistic diversity (Article 22) and prohibits language-based discrimination.

What mechanisms does the Commission have available to it to combat legislation that discriminates on language-related grounds within the EU?