

**Question for written answer E-004585/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Human rights situation and failure to take action against torture in Spain

The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg has unanimously condemned Spain for failing to investigate torture carried out as part of a counter-terrorism operation. It is the sixth ruling the court has made against Spain, and yet not one of them has resulted in any action being taken or any response being given. This is an affront to the fundamental values of the EU.

The Court is not alone in coming to such a conclusion: there are previous examples, such as the reports drawn up by the UN rapporteurs on torture, and an Amnesty International report entitled 'Salt in the wound', which draws attention to the issue and gives recommendations with a view to putting an end to a situation that cannot go on.

It is a disgrace that the reports drawn up by the Committee for the Prevention of Torture on the failure to take action against torture in Spain, or on cases of mistreatment in police stations and prisons, have been ignored to such an extent by Spain and indeed by the Commission.

Is the Commission aware of this state of affairs, as reported by various European organisations and condemned by the highest court that deals with such matters?

Could the Commission explain her role – which is in our view an inflated one – in defending human rights in countries in which there is extensive media interest, and her lack of response to such serious rulings against a Member State relating to action against torture?