

**Question for written answer E-002017/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**María Teresa Giménez Barbat (ALDE)**

Subject: Mobile application for assessing 'language focus'

The Catalan Regional Government is funding a mobile application that will enable information to be shared on the 'language focus' in companies and shops in all of Spain's autonomous communities – Catalonia, Aragon, Valencia and the Balearic Islands – as well as in the departments in Southern France. The main aim of the application is to pressure managers and owners into using Catalan, thereby undermining the freedom to use any other official Member State language. This application, which is publicly financed, uses language as a means of discriminating against, and marginalising, official EU languages such as French and Spanish, which is something explicitly prohibited under international human rights treaties (Article 14 ECHR, Article 2 ICESCR) and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Article 21).

What steps can the Commission take to ensure that the values and principles of the EU – such as non-discrimination against, and respect for, linguistic diversity – are respected in the Member States?