

**Question for written answer E-002066/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Raül Romeva brands 15 000 Barcelona demonstrators falangists

On 22 March 2017, speaking during a plenary question session in the Catalan parliament, Raül Romeva, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Institutional Relations, and Transparency in the Catalan Government, used the term 'falangists' (people with a fascist ideology) to refer to more than 15 000 citizens who had taken part in a peaceful demonstration called by the Catalan Civil Society platform (European Citizens' Prize 2014) under the slogan 'Stop the separatist coup. For freedom, democracy and coexistence' and held in Barcelona on 19 March 2017. This demonstration was supported by a variety of Spanish organisations and political parties, including those belonging to political groups such as ALDE, PPE and S&D^{1 2}.

Statements such as those made by Raül Romeva are unacceptable coming from public representatives and constitute 'hate speech'. They trivialise fascism and its terrible consequences and incite hatred and violence, discrimination or hostility against individuals or groups through prejudice or intolerance.

1. What view does the Commission take of Raül Romeva's use of the term 'falangists' to refer to more than 15 000 citizens who were exercising their right to demonstrate?
2. What steps will the Commission take to prevent public representatives from conveying messages inciting hatred, contrary to the values and principles of the European Union and the rights of European citizens?

¹ <http://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20170322/421089751152/cs-romeva-falangistas.html>.

² https://youtu.be/6_Qw6i3J3-l.