

**Question for written answer E-005629/2017/rev.2
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Catalonia: attack on fundamental rights by Spanish police

On 6 September 2017 the Catalan Parliament passed a law to allow a referendum on independence to be held on 1 October 2017.

Since the law was passed until Saturday, 9 September, the Guardia Civil (a military force charged with police duties) harassed workers from a printing enterprise in the Catalan town of Constantí, searching for ballot papers for the 1 October referendum¹. It also broke into the premises of *El Vallenc*, a local weekly, with the same excuse, forcing its director to testify². While this was happening, the security alert had been raised to level 4 out of 5.

Meanwhile, Spain's general prosecutor has threatened³ most Catalan government officials with prosecution if they help to organise the 1 October referendum, along with the more than 700 mayors that have announced their collaboration⁴. Media publishing advertisements for the referendum have also been threatened by the general prosecutor, who also wants to block access to the web pages set up to help stage the referendum.

In light of President Junker and Vice-President Timmermans speeches⁵ how does the Commission view these events, given that they constitute a clear breach of Article 2 TEU regarding EU values?

¹ <https://twitter.com/catalannews/status/906231122824134656>

² <https://twitter.com/catalannews/status/906231122824134656>

³ <https://twitter.com/catalannews/status/906231122824134656>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/catalannews/status/906231122824134656>

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https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/cambodia_en/31643/Local%20EU%20Statement%20on%20the%20closure%20of%20Cambodia%20Daily

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-16-114_en.htm

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-17-3165_en.htm

<http://www.publico.es/politica/guardia-civil-bloquea-140-webs-apoyo-1-orden-tsjpgat.html>

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-17-966_en.htm