

**Question for written answer E-006366/2017  
to the Council**

Rule 130

**Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)**

Subject: Council position in the face of the unilateral declaration of independence in Catalonia

Yesterday the Catalan regional government, through President Puigdemont, declared the independence of Catalonia as anticipated under the 'Ley de Transitoriedad Jurídica' [Law of legal transience] that the Constitutional Court unanimously ruled null and void.

The leaders of the separatist process state that the new country will continue to be part of the European Union. The Commission has refuted this idea on numerous occasions, for instance in 2004 through former Commission President Romano Prodi. Nevertheless, there is a state of confusion among Catalan society and the business sector that is creating legal uncertainty and has already led to some companies and banks leaving Catalonia, such as CaixaBank, Banco Sabadell, Gas Natural Fenosa, Colonial, SegurCaixa Adeslas, MRW and Grupo Planeta.

In its response to question E-004045/2017 on the same issue, the Council avoided answering what was then a 'hypothetical question'. Now Catalonia's declaration of independence is a reality. Bearing in mind Articles 4 and 49 of the Treaty on European Union and the fact that this declaration violates the territorial integrity of a Member State:

Will the Council support all measures adopted and implemented by the Spanish government to restore the constitutional order and the rule of law and preserve Spain's territorial integrity?