

**Question for written answer E-006583/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Anti-terrorist laws and the restriction of freedom

Spanish anti-terrorist laws have become ever broader and more ambiguous in their application. Successive reforms – in particular the 2015 modifications to the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure – have brought fundamental changes to the freedom of expression and the detention of people who have had nothing to do with terrorist acts. There have been cases where legitimate forms of expression came under fire: the puppeteers who were arrested in early 2016, for example, or the charges brought against singer César Strawberry in May 2015 for messages he had posted to the social network Twitter. In the fight against terrorism, the police are expected to prevent attacks, not pursue Tweets.

In the Commission's view, could current anti-terrorist laws be restricting freedom of expression in the Member States – as has been denounced by international organisations such as the United Nations?