

**Question for written answer E-007122/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Russian interference during the secessionist process in Catalonia and in the lead-up to next regional elections

The Russian propaganda and interference apparatus has been highly active during the political and institutional crisis in Catalonia, as NATO has recognised, through its Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, in the military intelligence reports it has just made public.

The report on the fight against hybrid threats (JOIN (2017) 30 final), published in July, warned of the increase in these activities and concern about interference in elections, as happened in the last presidential elections in France.

Given the interference, propaganda and misinformation practised by the Russian authorities in Catalonia, and taking into account the upcoming regional elections in Catalonia on 21 December, will the VP/HR say:

1. What do the EEAS and members of platforms such as EUvsDisinfo know about Russian propaganda interference in Catalonia in recent months?
2. Does the VP/HR intend to expand geographically and strengthen the capabilities of the East Stratcom Task Force, as well as of the various EEAS instruments, as requested in a letter by European ambassadors, to deal with the Russian disinformation machinery?
3. Will the VP/HR use all available capabilities and instruments to prevent Russian interference in the upcoming regional elections in Catalonia?