

**Question for written answer E-000021/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Jordi Solé (Verts/ALE) and Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Rule of law in Spain

Spanish judge Jaime Conejo Heredia, who recently took over the investigation into events surrounding the 1 October referendum, has publicly declared, on social media, his disapproval of the democratic Catalan pro-separatist movement and his highly pro-Spanish leanings<sup>1</sup>.

His Facebook profile contained numerous posts indicating a clear stance against the independence movement<sup>2 3 4</sup>. When the information began to go viral, he decided to shut down his Facebook account<sup>5</sup>.

The behaviour of judge Jaime Conejo Heredia is a clear indication that the rule of law does not work with full guarantees in Spain.

1. Does the Commission consider the behaviour of Mr Jaime Conejo Heredia to be befitting of an impartial judge?
2. Does the Commission still consider that it has no indication that the guarantees provided for in Spain's national legal system are not sufficient to protect the rule of law effectively?
3. What will the Commission do to ensure that Spain respects the independence of the judiciary?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.elperiodico.com/es/politica/20171214/el-nuevo-juez-de-la-investigacion-del-1-o-alardea-en-la-red-de-su-espanolismo-6494376>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.elnacional.cat/ca/politica/jaime-conejo-jutge13-referendum\\_221199\\_102.html](https://www.elnacional.cat/ca/politica/jaime-conejo-jutge13-referendum_221199_102.html)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.ara.cat/eleccions21d/investiga-elimina-Facebook-referencias-espanyolistes\\_0\\_1924007766.html](https://www.ara.cat/eleccions21d/investiga-elimina-Facebook-referencias-espanyolistes_0_1924007766.html)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.directe.cat/noticia/694868/el-nou-jutge-de-la-investigacio-de-l-1-o-participa-en-manifestacions-de-scc-llegeix-dolca>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.elnacional.cat/es/politica/juez-jaime-conejo-borra-facebook-referencias-espanolistas\\_221376\\_102.html](https://www.elnacional.cat/es/politica/juez-jaime-conejo-borra-facebook-referencias-espanolistas_221376_102.html)