

**Question for written answer E-000207/2018/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Jordi Solé (Verts/ALE), Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE) and Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)**

Subject: Use of military force against the civilian population

On 6 January 2018, the Spanish Defence Minister, María Dolores de Cospedal, acknowledged that the Spanish army had been on standby to intervene in Catalonia for months<sup>1</sup>.

Ms Cospedal also praised the role played by the Spanish army, claiming that it had demonstrated its 'excellent credentials in terms of democracy and upholding civilian rule'<sup>2</sup> as regards maintaining Spain's territorial integrity.

Bearing in mind the acts of violence perpetrated by the Spanish security forces against voters in Catalonia on 1 October 2017:

1. What is the Commission's view with regard to the question of whether possible military action against civilians engaged in peaceful protest is consistent with Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union<sup>3</sup>?
2. How, in the Commission's view, are Articles 2 and 4<sup>4,5</sup> of the Treaty on European Union compatible with one another where there is a clear threat of a Member State using military force against its own people?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.abc.es/espana/abci-cospedal-sobre-cataluna-ejercito-esta-preparado-para-cualquier-eventualidad-201801060209\\_noticia.html](http://www.abc.es/espana/abci-cospedal-sobre-cataluna-ejercito-esta-preparado-para-cualquier-eventualidad-201801060209_noticia.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.elnacional.cat/es/politica/cospedal-reconoce-ejercito-preparado-actuar-catalunya\\_226875\\_102.html](https://www.elnacional.cat/es/politica/cospedal-reconoce-ejercito-preparado-actuar-catalunya_226875_102.html)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.lisbon-treaty.org/wcm/the-lisbon-treaty/treaty-on-european-union-and-comments/title-1-common-provisions/2-article-2.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.lisbon-treaty.org/wcm/the-lisbon-treaty/treaty-on-european-union-and-comments/title-1-common-provisions/2-article-2.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.lisbon-treaty.org/wcm/the-lisbon-treaty/treaty-on-european-union-and-comments/title-1-common-provisions/5-article-4.html>