

**Question for written answer E-001549/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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

Subject: Hate speech and ultranationalist violence against Catalans

Ever since the Catalan independence referendum there has been a worrying increase in ultranationalist violence against Catalan citizens in favour of self-determination, which has often gone under-reported and unpunished. Between 8 September and 11 December 2017, 139 violent incidents, including 86 assaults, were officially recorded<sup>1</sup>. These attacks have continued occurring on a regular basis in 2018, the latest being a homophobic and political assault this week against a couple who were wearing yellow ribbons in support of Catalan political prisoners<sup>2</sup>.

This violence has occurred after a rise in hate speech against Catalans perpetrated by the authorities – such as members of the Civil Guard singing ‘go get them [the Catalans]’<sup>3</sup> –, several media outlets that regularly attack Catalan independentists<sup>4</sup>, and individuals inciting hatred through social media.

The Spanish state has failed to take concrete action against either the rise of ultranationalist violence or the increase in hate speech that promotes it.

Is the Commission aware of an increase in violence and hate speech in Spain?

Given the Commission’s commitment to fight hate speech online<sup>5</sup>, will it demand that Spain take a harder stance on hate speech against Catalans?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.media.cat/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Anuari2016-2017\\_webok.pdf](https://www.media.cat/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Anuari2016-2017_webok.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ara.cat/politica/Dos-denuncien-agressio-agafats-portar\\_0\\_1976202550.html](https://www.ara.cat/politica/Dos-denuncien-agressio-agafats-portar_0_1976202550.html)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.elnacional.cat/es/politica/video-guardia-civil-a-por-ellos\\_199542\\_102.html](https://www.elnacional.cat/es/politica/video-guardia-civil-a-por-ellos_199542_102.html)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.media.cat/2017/06/15/catalanofobia-boc-expiatori>

<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item\\_id=612086](http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=612086)