

**Question for written answer E-002276/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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and Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Freedom of expression in Spain

During the recent final of Spain's football 'Copa del Rey' competition at the Wanda Metropolitano stadium in Madrid, Spanish police and private security personnel confiscated yellow clothing items (scarves, T-shirts, jumpers, etc) and whistles from supporters of F.C Barcelona¹. Wearing yellow or whistling at the Spanish national anthem have become means of expressing disagreement in peaceful and democratic fashion with the repressive path that the Spanish government has taken in the Catalan conflict. In spite of the peaceful nature of the protest, Spain's interior minister, Juan Ignacio Zoido, warned that the authorities would use Spain's anti-violence legislation to punish those who took part in the protest².

Does the Commission consider that the prohibition of wearing a colour is a violation of freedom of expression, as enshrined as a fundamental right in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and Article 6 of the Treaty of Lisbon?

Does the Commission believe that wearing yellow clothes and symbols falls under the right to freedom of expression, or does it think it could be considered a crime?

Does the Commission consider that the peaceful expression of political opinions should be repressed through anti-violence legislation?

¹ http://www.thenational.scot/news/16176551.Spanish_police_ban_yellow_at_Barcelona_game

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/19/sports/barcelona-copa-del-rey-final.html>