

EN
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Answer given by Ms Jourová
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.12.2018)

As regards the situation in Catalonia, the Commission would like to recall its position, as expressed in the Plenary Session of the European Parliament on 4 October and on 11 October 2017. The Commission expressed its trust in the leadership of the Spanish authorities to manage this difficult process in full respect of the Spanish Constitution and of the fundamental rights of citizens enshrined therein. This position remains entirely valid.

The Commission attaches great importance to the right to a fair trial in criminal proceedings. Six procedural rights Directives have been adopted by the European Union to date, including Directive (EU) 2016/343 on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings¹. Member States have to ensure that the rights of all suspects and accused persons as provided by these Directives are fully respected.

¹ Directive (EU) 2016/343 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings, OJ L 65, 11.3.2016, p. 1.