

**Question for written answer P-006153/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Violent crackdown on innocent citizens by the Spanish police

Dozens of people (38 according to the foreign media) have so far suffered injuries as a result of the violent police crackdown in Catalonia. Dozens of reports have also been coming in regarding their use of rubber bullets, despite the fact that they have been prohibited in Catalonia since 2014. Today's events come on top of other repressive measures taken by the Spanish state police a few weeks ago (local officials arrested, hundreds of websites closed down), in a bid to prevent the holding of referendum in Catalonia.

Whatever view may be taken of the basic issue:

Does the Commission consider that both the principles of democracy and basic political rights are currently being flouted in Spain?

Does it consider that police crackdown ordered by the Spanish Government breaches the values of freedom and democracy on which Europe is based?

Does it agree that the argument that this is an 'internal matter for the Spanish Government' should have been made in 2011 also (it was not), when the Member States in the European Council were bringing massive pressure to bear on Spain's main political parties to amend the national constitution with a view to balancing its budgets?