

**Question for written answer P-006292/2017**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Francesc Gambús (PPE)**

Subject: Excessive use of force in Barcelona

In the debate on Catalonia in Strasbourg, Vice-President Timmermans said: 'Let me be clear: violence does not solve anything in politics. It is never an answer, never a solution, and it can never be used as a weapon or instrument. Europe knows this better than anywhere else. None of us want to see violence in our societies. However, it is of course a duty for any government to uphold the rule of law, and this sometimes does require the proportionate use of force.' Since the images from Sunday do not relate solely to an issue of public order, and in the light of assertions made by organisations such as Amnesty International and the international coverage of the day's events, I would like to ask whether:

- the Commission believes, accepting the general principle that upholding the rule of law can involve the proportionate use of force, that what happened in Catalonia on 1 October was in line with that proportionality?
- the Commission shares Vice-President Timmermans' comments regarding the non-use of violence to solve political problems and considers that the principles laid down in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union were fully complied with?