

**Question for written answer E-011376/2011  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: New information regarding Ley de Costas

Members of the European Parliament continue to be informed that the issues regarding the application of the Spanish law on coastlines (Ley de Costas) have not been resolved, and that house-owners continue to face the threat of expropriation without compensation.

The Commission has not acted, on the grounds that the EU does not have competence for this matter under EU law.

However, during a seminar held by Parliament's Petitions Committee on 6 October 2011 on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, academics were arguing that as soon as the free movement of capital or EU citizens' freedom of establishment are affected by national law, the Commission should be obliged to act.

What is the Commission's position regarding the above-mentioned arguments made at the seminar of 6 October 2011?

In previous answers to parliamentary questions, the Commission said it would monitor the situation closely and contact the Spanish authorities. On the basis of that activity, does the Commission have any new information which would help clarify the situation or now justify involvement at the European level?

Has the Commission done any other research which would shed further light on the extent of problem? Does it have figures as regards the number of houses and the number of families affected by the law on coastlines?

Is the Commission aware of any activity within Spain's national or regional parliaments aimed at bringing the conflicts between house-owners and the state to an amicable resolution?