

**Question for written answer E-005782/2013/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Eulogising of authoritarian regimes in Spain

As was reported in the Catalan press on 11 May 2013, the Spanish Government's delegate in Catalonia, María de los Llanos de Luna, recently attended a ceremony in the town of Sant Andreu de la Barca paying tribute to military personnel. The delegate presented an award to the Veterans' Brotherhood (*Hermanadad de Combatientes*) of the *División Azul*, an organisation of military veterans who fought in World War II – as the 250th Infantry Division – alongside Hitler's troops. Some members of the brotherhood went to collect their awards dressed in the usual attire of the Falangists, the political arm of the Franco dictatorship.

The preamble to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights states 'the Union is founded on the indivisible, universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity; it is based on the principles of democracy and the rule of law' and that it 'contributes to the preservation and to the development of these common values while respecting the diversity of cultures and traditions of the peoples of Europe'. Furthermore, in paragraph 3 of its resolution of 2 April 2009 on European conscience and totalitarianism, the European Parliament underlined 'the importance of keeping the memories of the past alive, because there can be no reconciliation without truth and remembrance ... [and] reconfirm[ed] its united stand against all totalitarian rule from whatever ideological background'.

- Does the Commission believe that presenting military awards to veterans of the Nazi army is an act in keeping with the values on which the EU is founded, as expressed in particular in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union?