

**Question for written answer E-003588/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Dangers associated with the proliferation of betting shops in Spain

In many Spanish cities, the number of betting shops is increasing, in spite of the risk of gambling addiction among young people. Some 1 800 inspections have been carried out at the 3 000 betting shops currently in operation: 220 breaches of the law were discovered and 28 minors were found on the premises.

According to the latest studies, Galicia, Valencia, Madrid and, to a lesser extent, Andalusia and the Basque Country have the highest density of betting shops. The Directorate-General for the Regulation of Gambling (DGOJ) states that online gambling in Spain grew by 387% in the period 2012-2017, rising from EUR 2.8 million to more than EUR 13 million.

The Commission is aware of the serious social and health problems caused by gambling addictions, as is evident in the answer to question E-000158/2019. Does it not consider it essential to develop sector-specific legislation on gambling?

Given the real risks posed to minors, does the Commission not consider it appropriate to guarantee the protection of consumers, particularly minors, from betting shops and online gambling?