

**Question for written answer E-002317/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Diana Riba i Giner (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Independent mechanism to analyse and control police violence at European level

As we are witnessing in certain Member States, the shrinking of space for civil society and restrictions on the right to demonstrate are often accompanied by police brutality and violence by security forces. The European Parliament indicated these facts in its resolution on the right to peaceful protest and the proportionate use of force.¹

In 2014, the then Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights reiterated the importance of independent mechanisms to control police violence.² According to the European Police Code of Ethics, 'The police shall be accountable to the state, the citizens and their representatives. They shall be subject to efficient external control.'³

What mechanisms does the Commission plan to introduce at European level to remedy the helpless situation in which citizens find themselves when confronted with police violence?

Is the Commission planning to present draft legislation on minimum standards by which independent bodies investigate complaints of police brutality?

Is the Commission planning to introduce an independent complaints mechanism for the EU in the framework of the future revision of the directive on the protection of victims' rights and/or within the EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights?

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-8-2019-0104_EN.html

² <https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/police-abuse-a-serious-threat-to-the-rule-of-l-1>

³ <https://rm.coe.int/16805e297e>