

**Question for written answer E-003181/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Infringement of the principle of the separation of powers in the Spanish Government

A few days ago, Spain's Minister of the Interior, Fernando Grande Marlaska, summarily dismissed the head of the Guardia Civil in Madrid for refusing to provide information on the ongoing investigation by a court in the city in connection with a demonstration held to mark International Women's Day on 8 March and the spread of the coronavirus.

The separation of powers is a safeguard of the democratic rule of law and is particularly important when it comes to irregularities or abuses of power on the part of the Executive. Royal Decree No 769/1987 on the Criminal Investigation Department protects confidentiality in investigations.

Under the Treaties, it is the Commission's job to guarantee that the rule of law is upheld as a fundamental value of the European Union and to ensure that the EU's laws, values and principles are adhered to. It should also remain vigilant and ensure that this crisis is not used to push established standards down.

1. Does the Commission think it is serious that a Member State government is breaching the separation of powers that underpins the rule of law?
2. Is the Commission going to include this issue in the assessment it is planning to carry out on the action taken in the Member States in response to COVID-19?