

**Question for written answer E-003986/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Dolors Montserrat (PPE)**

Subject: Defending press freedom in Spain

In the context of the recent judicial inquiry into the so-called 'Dina affair', some of the leaders of Podemos, one of the ruling parties in Spain, have launched outrageous attacks against the press.

Pablo Iglesias, the second Deputy Prime Minister, attacked freedom of the press, one of the pillars of Spanish and European democracy, calling the media the 'gutter press' and belittling the work of journalists, whom he labelled 'supposed reporters'.

Furthermore, Pablo Echenique, Podemos spokesperson in the Chamber of Deputies, publically singled out Vicente Vallés, a journalist with a private media company, for doing his job, i.e. informing people about a legal process which has an impact on his political background.

Our duty as democrats is to defend press freedom from those who attack it.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission condemn the fact that journalists are singled out and attacked for doing their job?
2. In the Commission's view, do these attacks on the press have any place in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (Article 11)?