

**Question for written answer E-005412/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: 2020 Rule of Law Report

The Commission received 38 stakeholder contributions regarding Spain for its 2020 Rule of Law Report. Some 12 of these came from Catalan institutions and civil society organisations, covering topics such as the partiality of the judiciary, violations of freedom of expression and assembly, including the arbitrary detention of activists and politicians, and discrimination against Catalan speakers in the judicial system. However, none of these issues are discussed in the report, and they are not even mentioned in the summary of the contributions, other than through a generic reference to 'issues that are specific to regions'.

1. Given that the issues raised by these stakeholders are relevant to the assessment of the rule of law in Spain, why does the report not cover them?
2. Why has the Commission not met with a single Catalan stakeholder to discuss rule of law developments in Spain, particularly as there are credible reports of instances of serious irregularities and violations by the judiciary in relation to the pro-independence movement¹?
3. Given that the report has not suitably acknowledged the contributions from Catalan stakeholders and that the Commission has failed to meet with any of them: does it believe that such actions are consistent with the value of respect for the rights of minorities²?

¹ https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Detention/Opinions/Session84/A_HRC_WGAD_2019_6.pdf

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/teu_2012/art_2/oj