

**Question for written answer E-006110/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Spanish Guardia Civil detentions in Catalonia as part of Operation Volkhov

On 28 October 2020, following several court orders, the Spanish Guardia Civil paramilitary police arrested 21 people in Catalonia. The detainees were businessmen linked to the pro-independence movement, Catalan Government officials and local politicians. The Guardia Civil called it Operation Volkhov, after a World War II battle won by the Nazis with the help of Spain's 'Division Azul'¹.

The investigation refers, inter alia, to the alleged collaboration of the Kremlin, which according to the case documents committed to sending 10 000 Russian soldiers to Catalonia should independence be declared. The official Twitter account of the Russian Embassy in Madrid clarified, in an ironic statement, that the number of soldiers would actually be one million².

1. Does the Commission consider that, by calling the operation 'Volkhov', the Guardia Civil is apologising for – or trivialising – Nazism?
2. Does it have any proof that Russia offered military aid, which, if provided, would have caused a major global conflict since it would have triggered the NATO mutual defence clause?
3. Does it consider that police and judicial reports constructed on the basis of such highly untenable assumptions are a sign that the rule of law is functioning properly?

¹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/russian-group-offered-catalan-separatist-leaders-10000-soldiers-according-to-judge/>

² <https://twitter.com/EmbajadaRusaES/status/1321529417609420803?s=20>