

**Question for written answer E-006139/2020/rev.1**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**Jordi Cañas** (Renew)

**Subject:** Judicial investigation into possible Russian interference in Catalonia with the aim of destabilising European democracy

In a recent judicial investigation, entrepreneurs with links to Catalan separatism have been charged with allegedly committing crimes of misappropriation of public funds, prevarication and influence trafficking, through which they could have financed Carles Puigdemont's stay and activities in Belgium.

The defendants are also being investigated for spearheading the 'Democratic Tsunami' movement, an organisation responsible for violent protests in response to the ruling of the Spanish Supreme Court against Catalan separatist leaders, as well as for allegedly having held talks with Russian Government officials to garner support for Catalan separatism through political destabilisation, the dispatch of 10 000 militants in the event of conflict and the provision of financial assistance following the declaration of Catalan independence.

Russian disinformation and propaganda campaigns aimed at politically destabilising the EU were condemned by the Spanish Government in relation to political developments in Catalonia, but also in relation to Brexit, elections in France and Germany and other matters.

In the light of the above:

How does the Vice-President / High Representative Commission intend to strengthen the mandate of the East Stratcom Task Force to cope with increasing Russian interference aimed at destabilising and weakening the EU?