

**Question for written answer E-000592/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Diana Riba i Giner (Verts/ALE), **Jordi Solé** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Rapper Pablo Hasél imprisoned in Spain

Today, the rapper Pablo Hasél was informed by the Spanish High Court that he was required to hand himself over to prison authorities within the next ten days¹. Hasél was sentenced to two years in prison in 2015 for the 'glorification of terrorism' and for some of his song lyrics. In 2018, the same court sentenced him to two years and one day in prison for 64 tweets he posted and for a music video he made entitled Juan Carlos el Bobón [Juan Carlos the idiot], and handed him a EUR 24 300 fine for the 'glorification of terrorism, aggravated by the fact that it was a repeat offence', for 'insulting and slandering the Crown and using the King's image' and for 'insulting and slandering State institutions'².

The President of the European Court of Human Rights, Robert Spano, issued a warning that the Strasbourg doctrine on crimes of insulting the Crown is 'clear' and that 'public office holders must accept wider ranges of criticism'.

What is the Commission's assessment of the state of artistic freedom in Europe?

What measures will the Commission take to protect freedom of artistic expression in Europe?

¹ https://twitter.com/PabloHasel?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

² In its 2019 report on the state of artistic freedom in the world, Freemuse warned that Spain imprisons more artists than any other country. https://freemuse.org/def_art_freedom/the-state-of-artistic-freedom-2019-report-launch/.