

**Question for written answer E-001234/2021/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Abandonment of security forces in Catalonia

Violent protests in Barcelona during the night of 27 February 2021, incited by the so-called Committees for the Defence of the Republic and the separatist youth movement Arran, culminated in a vehicle belonging to Barcelona's municipal police force being set on fire while a police officer was still inside the vehicle. This was clearly a deliberate case of attempted murder and has been reported to the authorities.

These protests have been going on for weeks now, producing a form of street terrorism with unpredictable consequences. However, far from being condemned by political leaders in the Catalan separatist movement, these protests are taking place in a widespread climate of impunity, with well-known people in political and institutional life justifying and defending the violence employed.

Officers in Catalonia's autonomous police force (the Mossos d'Esquadra) and Barcelona's municipal police force (the Guardia Urbana de Barcelona) feel they have been abandoned by political leaders in Catalonia's regional government and Barcelona City Council and left at the mercy of increasingly violent, radicalised young people who make direct attempts on their lives.

1. What is the Commission's view of the failure by political leaders in Catalonia to defend the Mossos d'Esquadra and the Guardia Urbana?
2. Does the Commission believe that a specific framework needs to be introduced to protect and strengthen security forces in Member States, given the growing use of violence by radical youth in Europe?