

**Question for written answer E-002155/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Breach of the principle of equality and non-discrimination with regard to COVID-19 vaccinations for state law enforcement officers in Catalonia

The Government of the Autonomous Community of Catalonia (Spain) has knowingly failed to adhere to the COVID-19 vaccination strategy with regard to state law enforcement officers posted in Catalonia. The strategy was approved by Spain's inter-territorial health board, which deemed such officers to be key workers.

This situation is putting the officers' lives at risk. Spain's Ministry of Health¹ has decided to take over the Catalan Government's powers relating to the vaccination campaign, once it became clear that vaccination rates among the officers in question were scandalously lower than the Spanish average.

Leaders of Junts per Catalunya² – the governing party led by Carles Puigdemont MEP – have stated that the Catalan Government should not vaccinate law enforcement officers posted to the region because 'they do not feel they are Catalan citizens'.

This situation is an example of the sectarian behaviour of the Catalan Government, which engages in extremely serious discrimination against public officials depending on their responsibilities, origin, ideology or political opinions. This is a direct affront to the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Does the Commission take the view that this situation constitutes a breach of the principle of equality and non-discrimination?
2. Is it intending to take action to prevent discrimination on political grounds in Member States' vaccination plans?

¹ <https://elpais.com/sociedad/2021-04-20/el-gobierno-anuncia-que-vacunara-a-los-policias-y-guardias-civiles-de-cataluna-unica-comunidad-que-no-les-esta-inmunizando.html>

² <https://www.larazon.es/espana/20210412/fz2lztxf5ghlo7elvvppr2r5i.html>