

**Question for written answer E-002389/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Political dependence of the General Council of the Judiciary in Spain

The General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ) is the governing body of the judiciary branch in Spain.

Since 1985, all its 20 members have been appointed by the Spanish Congress and Senate by a three-fifths majority, which essentially requires the agreement between the two largest political parties, Partido Popular (PP) and Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE).

In November 2018, these two parties initially agreed to renew the CGPJ. Following their agreement, the spokesperson for the PP in the Senate wrote to his senators that with this deal they would control from behind the scenes the Criminal Chamber and Chamber 61 of the Supreme Court, both judging cases against politicians and political parties. Since then, these two parties have been unable to reach a new agreement, so the CGPJ has been operating for over three years with an expired mandate. All this shows the extreme political dependence of the CGPJ.

Since 2013 the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) has demanded in its annual report that Spain corrects this anomaly. The Commission's Report on the Rule of Law 2020 also expresses concern about this issue.

What actions will the Commission undertake to ensure that Spain complies with rule of law standards to guarantee the independence of the CGPJ from political parties?