

**Question for written answer E-002938/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Relations between China and Spain after China imposed sanctions against EU officials

On Thursday 27 May 2021, through its website the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China publicly stated that President Xi Jinping and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez had held a conversation in order for 'China and Spain [to] strengthen exchanges between the political parties, [and] deepen experience-sharing on state governance'¹

This came one week after Parliament approved its resolution on 'Chinese counteractions on EU entities and MEPs and MPs'², which was also largely voted for by the party of the Spanish Prime Minister, whose representatives in Parliament were also very vehement in their denunciation of Chinese behaviour on human rights or democracy.

1. What is the Commission's opinion on the fact that different Member States keep strong economic and political ties with the Chinese regime while at the same time signing forceful denunciations against the same regime?
2. What is the Commission's opinion on the fact that different Member States continue with business as usual while the Commission duly halts ratification of the EU–China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment because of the sanctions imposed by the Chinese regime³?
3. Does the Commission consider that this dissonance between words and deeds by Member States and EU officials undermines the Union's foreign policy?

¹ 'Xi Jinping Speaks with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on the Phone', fmprc.gov.cn

² Texts adopted, P9_TA(2021)0255.

³ European Parliament votes to 'freeze' investment deal until China lifts sanctions – POLITICO