

**Question for written answer E-005292/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dolors Montserrat (PPE), Javier Zarzalejos (PPE)

Subject: Compliance with the ruling of the High Court of Justice of Catalonia

On 18 November 2021, the Spanish High Court upheld the ruling of 16 December 2020 of the High Court of Justice of Catalonia in which it was established that the legal requirement guaranteeing that at least 25 % of teaching hours are conducted in Spanish, one of the two co-official languages in Catalonia's public education system, was not being implemented. Both the Constitution and the Statute of Autonomy recognise the co-official status of these two languages.

The ruling clearly shows that the Catalan Regional Government has turned the language immersion model into a programme that oppresses use of Spanish in the public arena. Taken in conjunction with public campaigns 'spying' on pupils' use of language, this is a breach of respect for the co-official status of the two languages and an attack on the freedom of millions of Catalans (52.7 %) whose mother tongue is Spanish. The Catalan Regional Government has already said that it will not comply with the ruling.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it consider that the Generalitat of Catalonia's refusal to comply with the ruling constitutes a premeditated attack on rule of law and the separation of powers?
2. What is its view of the fact that in a Member State, members of the Regional Government of Catalonia have announced that they intend systematically and consciously to defy the court.
3. What measures would it suggest taking to ensure that the bilingualism guaranteeing the peaceful coexistence of these languages, and institutional neutrality concerning their co-official status, are both protected, so that teaching in Spanish can be guaranteed for at least 25 % of classroom hours?