

**Question for written answer E-005524/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Preventing national electoral authorities from illegally banning candidates from standing in the European elections

The 2020 EU Citizenship Report announced ‘[...], the possibility of creating a dedicated shared resource to support EU citizens in exercising their electoral rights, as well as providing additional avenues for them to report hurdles and incidents affecting their political participation¹’.

In April 2019, Spain’s Electoral Board (JEC) illegally declared invalid our candidacies to the European elections². Our coalition was forced to present alternative candidates and to seek legal remedy³. The attempt almost managed to illegally prevent us from standing for election. We eventually could stand in the elections⁴ but only thanks to the quick and effective reaction of our legal team. It was later revealed that one of the JEC’s members involved in the decision was on the payroll of the party Ciudadanos (which had requested our exclusion)⁵.

1. What steps has the Commission taken to set up a ‘shared resource to support EU citizens in exercising their electoral rights’?
2. Will this resource offer support to citizens affected by illegal decisions by national electoral authorities and thus ensure that they are not illegally excluded from elections, as almost occurred to us?
3. More broadly, is the Commission considering any actions to promote the independence of electoral authorities as part of its democracy action plan⁶?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_2395

²

http://www.juntaelectoralcentral.es/cs/jec/doctrina/acuerdos?anyosesion=2019&idacuerdoinstruccion=67617&idsesion=935&template=Doctrina/JEC_Detalle

³ https://www.eldiario.es/catalunya/politica/trias-talegon-puigdemont-comin-ponsati_1_1570309.html

⁴ <https://www.dw.com/es/tribunal-supremo-considera-que-puigdemont-puede-participar-en-elecciones-europeas/a-48609465>

⁵ https://www.eldiario.es/politica/junta-electoral-central-ciudadanos-trascendentales_1_1117478.html

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A790%3AFIN&qid=1607079662423>