

**Question for written answer E-005527/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Commissioner Reynders's meeting with a Spanish organisation with ties to the far right

On 9 December 2021, Commissioner Reynders met with the Spanish organisation Societat Civil Catalana (SCC) to discuss the political situation of Catalonia¹. This self-proclaimed 'civic platform' created in 2014 to oppose the independence movement in Catalonia is in fact far from being the grassroots movement it purports to be. It was founded and financed by politicians and important businesses with the specific goal of generating the appearance of a popular mobilisation against the independence of Catalonia². The SCC is not even registered on the EU Transparency Register and has never been open about its accounts and annual activity reports.

More worryingly, the SCC's close ties with the Spanish far right are well-documented³. Vox MEP Jorge Buxadé is one of its founding members. Another of its founding members, Javier Barrycoa, held the presentation of his book in the headquarters of a neo-Nazi party⁴. SCC founding president, Josep Ramon Bosch, uploaded videos of far-right ideological content under a pseudonym⁵ and attended a commemoration of Franco's coup⁶. Representatives of the Fundación Nacional Francisco Franco (Francisco Franco National Foundation) and of racist and neo-Nazi parties often attend SCC events.

1. What was the purpose of the meeting between Commissioner Reynders and the SCC?
2. What are the criteria for deciding which organisations can meet with a commissioner?
3. Does the Commission approve of its members meeting with organisations with ties to far-right movements?

¹ <https://mailchi.mp/societatcivilcatalana/bruselas-471514>

² <https://directa.cat/app/uploads/2019/05/Directa-478.pdf>

³ <https://www.elcritic.cat/investigacio/els-vincles-ocults-de-lextrema-dreta-amb-societat-civil-catalana-10073>

⁴ <https://www.vilaweb.cat/noticia/4187850/20140428/scc-founder-of-ultra-conservative-and-neo-nazi-groups.html>

⁵ <https://elmon.cat/politica/el-president-de-scc-penja-videos-de-propaganda-feixista-amb-la-seva-propia-veu-a-youtube-107049/>

⁶ <https://www.naciodigital.cat/noticia/83854/societat/civil/reconeix/bosch/va/assistir/acte/fundacio/franco>