

**Question for written answer E-000195/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The connection between Spanish intelligence services and the terrorist cell leader
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On 11 January 2022, former police and secret service operative J.M. Villarejo¹²³ declared before a court of law that the Centro Nacional de Investigaciones (CNI), the Spanish secret service, knew about plans for the 17 August 2017 terrorist attack in Barcelona, which caused 16 deaths, including citizens from five Member States, and 155 injured from 39 countries⁴⁵⁶, but did not intervene in order 'to give Catalonia a bit of a scare'. This statement is consistent with press revelations documenting extensive ties between the commander of the terrorist cell and the CNI⁷⁸⁹.

The Spanish government and the political parties PSOE (S&D), PP (EPP) and Ciudadanos (Renew) have repeatedly blocked a committee of inquiry into the connections between the terrorist cell and the CNI¹⁰. The Spanish judiciary has also rejected victims' requests to investigate these allegations.

Given the Commission's role as the guardian of the treaties that enshrine human rights in the EU, all within the context of the rights provided for in the core international human rights instruments and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights regarding the right to the truth, what is the Commission's view on the lack of an investigation into the connection between the CNI and the terrorist cell leader? What actions could the Commission undertake to promote a thorough investigation?

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/29/world/europe/spain-jose-manuel-villarejo.html>

² <https://www.politico.eu/article/jose-manuel-villarejo-spain-corruption-politics/>

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/13/spain-former-police-officer-court-sewers-of-state-scandal>

⁴ <https://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20220112/7981263/villarejo-culpa-cni-17-a-socios-sanchez-explicaciones.html>

⁵ <https://theintercept.com/2018/09/03/las-ramblas-terrorist-attacks-es-satty/>

⁶ https://elpais.com/politica/2017/11/17/actualidad/1510900232_739084.html

⁷ <https://www.publico.es/politica/exclusiva-iman-ripoll-1-cerebro-masacre-ramblas-confidente-cni-dia-atentado.html>

⁸ <https://www.publico.es/politica/iman-ripoll-2-exclusiva-cni-escuchaba-moviles-asesinos-ramblas-cinco-dias-matanza.html>

⁹ <https://www.publico.es/politica/iman-ripoll-3-exclusiva-cni-ficho-satty-2014-cambio-no-deportado-le-ayudo-iman-ripoll.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.publico.es/public/pp-psoe-i-cs-vetar-congres-comissio-d-investigacio-cni-i-l-imam-ripoll.html>