

**Question for written answer E-001834/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: On the meeting of Commission Vice-President Schinas with Spanish extreme-right MEPs

Ten of the current members of the Commission belong to the Group of the European People's Party (the EPP)¹, among them Vice-President Margaritis Schinas. When VP Schinas was in southern Spain in late March and early April, as stated in his official calendar², he took the opportunity to attend the national congress of the Partido Popular, the EPP's Spanish party³, on 2 and 3 April, where he was reminded of his close family ties with the party⁴.

One week later, the Spanish far-right party VOX became the junior party in a coalition with the Partido Popular in Castilla y León⁵. Two weeks later, VP Schinas met with two MEPs from VOX and the president of the party in the Catalan Parliament at the Commission's premises⁶. The MEPs from VOX have been prevented from chairing European Parliament committees⁷ by the other parliamentary groups, including the EPP with a view to applying a cordon sanitaire against any far-right party.

1. Did VP Schinas hold that meeting on behalf of the Commission, on behalf of the EPP, or on his own behalf?
2. Does this mean that the Commission is not following the cordon sanitaire policy being applied in Parliament?
3. Will VP Schinas really meet any MEP who requests a meeting, whatever their political ideology, as he has stated⁸?

¹ <https://www.epp.eu/network>

² [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/calendar_en?field_editorial_section_multiple_tid=442&date_filter_min\[value\]\[date\]=30/03/2022](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/calendar_en?field_editorial_section_multiple_tid=442&date_filter_min[value][date]=30/03/2022)

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZBI91hfurw>

⁴ <https://www.elcomercio.es/politica/guino-schinas-inmensa-20220403000718-ntvo.html>

⁵ <https://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20220412/8193775/castilla-leon-vox-pp-investigacion-manueco.html>

⁶ <https://cadenaser.com/2022/04/26/el-vicepresidente-de-la-comision-europea-se-reune-con-dirigentes-de-vox-para-hablar-de-inmigracion/>

⁷ <https://www.politico.eu/article/parliament-groups-vow-to-stop-far-right-meps-chairing-committees/>

⁸ <https://www.efe.com/efe/espana/politica/comisario-dice-tras-recibir-a-vox-que-atendera-cualquier-eurodiputado/10002-4792791>