

**Question for written answer E-002876/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Academic freedom in the European Union

Academic freedom and institutional autonomy are fundamental principles of the Union and of the European Research Area (ERA). As established under Article 13 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, academic freedom is a fundamental right in the Union.

It has recently been reported that several Catalan researchers have complained that pressure has been brought to bear on international scientific journals with the aim of preventing the publication of their research. The article describes how members of the Foro de Profesores (Forum of Teachers), a body which claims to defend the Constitution and Spanish unity, contact scientific journals, citing an ideological bias on the part of the authors as well as conflicts of interest and personal links with entities, parties or bodies of the Catalan Government. Although such pressure has not borne fruit so far, the academic harassment faced by some Catalan researchers is worrying.

1. Does the Commission consider this case of ideologically motivated academic persecution to be compatible with the fundamental principles of the EU?
2. What are the Commission's recommendations for the protection of academic freedom in Europe?
3. Does the Commission have any oversight mechanism to ensure respect for academic freedom?