

**Question for written answer E-002996/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Police infiltration of civil society organisations in Catalonia on antiterrorism grounds

An investigation<sup>1</sup> recently revealed that a Spanish police officer infiltrated a Catalan pro-independence student organisation and tried to infiltrate other youth organisations under a false identity, using a fake ID card issued by the Interior Ministry to enrol at a university.

Following legal proceedings, the Spanish Government has acknowledged<sup>2</sup> that the police infiltrates the pro-independence movement regularly because it is 'legitimate, appropriate and timely'. According to the Spanish Government, the goal of this infiltration is to gather 'information of interest to public order and security in the same environments in which radical individuals or those committed to illegal secessionist projects act'.

The Spanish Government also cited the Strategy on National Security, which guides the fight against terrorism, as one of the key grounds justifying the use of such methods.

In view of Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union and the definition of terrorism provided for in Articles 2 and 3 of Directive (EU) 2017/541<sup>3</sup>:

1. Does the Commission consider that police infiltration of peaceful and non-violent political civil organisations on the grounds of antiterrorism rules is compatible with the respect for pluralism that all Member States must observe?
2. Will the Commission investigate this situation in the annual rule of law report on Spain?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://directa.cat/un-agent-de-la-policia-espanyola-sinfiltra-a-lesquerra-independentista-i-al-moviment-pel-dret-a-lhabitatge/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ccma.cat/324/el-ministeri-de-linterior-admet-infiltracions-policials-en-entitats-independentistes/noticia/3182572/>

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 88, 31.3.2017, p. 6.