

**Question for written answer E-003170/2022/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Spain's violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

The UN Human Rights Committee has published a decision<sup>1</sup> stating that Spain violated international human rights by suspending four Catalan independence leaders from their positions as members of the Catalan Parliament in 2018. This decision is in line with those already adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe<sup>2</sup> and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention<sup>3</sup>. There is mounting evidence to prove that Spain has systematically violated the political rights of pro-independence leaders and supporters.

According to the UN, Spain violated Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantees that all citizens have the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs and have access, under general terms of equality, to public service. This is one of the most important decisions by an international body finding that Spain's repression of the Catalan independence movement has gravely violated human rights.

1. What is the Commission's view on this human rights violation by an EU Member State?
2. What measures will it consider taking in order to guarantee that Member States comply with international law on human rights?
3. Will it include this decision on Spain in the next rule of law report?

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<sup>1</sup>

[https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR%2fC%2f135%2fD%2f3297%2f2019&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR%2fC%2f135%2fD%2f3297%2f2019&Lang=en)

<sup>2</sup> <https://assembly.coe.int/LifeRay/JUR/Pdf/TextesProvisoires/2021/20210603-ProsecutionPoliticians-EN.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>

[https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Detention/Opinions/Session84/A\\_HRC\\_WGAD\\_2019\\_12\\_ADVANCE\\_EDITED\\_VERSION.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Detention/Opinions/Session84/A_HRC_WGAD_2019_12_ADVANCE_EDITED_VERSION.pdf)