

**Question for written answer E-003791/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Former Spanish minister defends state terrorist activities

José Barrionuevo, minister of interior of Spain from 1982 to 1988, has defended and justified the actions of the state terrorist group GAL in an interview in El País¹. Although Barrionuevo was convicted for his involvement with the group, he was quickly pardoned and the Spanish Government has never apologised for these crimes and human rights violations. The Franco-era law on official secrets has prevented a thorough investigation into the group's activities and political involvement and it seems that the revision of the law will also not declassify this information².

Spain's refusal to address this black episode in its history creates an environment in which Barrionuevo can brag about his crimes and openly admit that he is protecting criminals with no consequences. It also hampers any effort to provide justice and remedy to the victims of these state crimes.

1. In the light of the above, what measures can the Commission put in place to uphold the rights of the victims of state crimes when the Member State in question is breaching those rights?
2. Does the Commission feel the need for the EU to take action in this specific case?

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¹ <https://elpais.com/espana/2022-11-06/el-exministro-jose-barrionuevo-yo-ordene-liberar-a-segundo-marey.html>

² <https://www.eitb.eus/es/noticias/politica/detalle/8943462/el-foro-social-reclama-mejorar-ley-de-informacion-clasificada-y-esclarecer-desapariciones-forzadas/>