

**Question for written answer E-000370/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Workers suffer repression for exercising their democratic rights in Spain

Every person in Europe has the right to freedom of thought, to freedom of expression and to freedom of assembly and association<sup>1</sup>. This includes the right to hold meetings, sit-ins, strikes, rallies, events or protests, both offline and online<sup>2</sup>.

Òscar Valdés was a Ryanair employee in Spain. Days after being hired by the airline, the Spanish airport authority Aena<sup>3</sup> had him fired by order of the Ministry of the Interior, specifically the Guardia Civil, for having participated in a peaceful demonstration against the Supreme Court's verdict on Catalonia's self-determination referendum of 1 October 2017<sup>4</sup>. Mr Valdés was identified in one of the road blockades on the AP-7 highway, when he was inside his car<sup>5</sup>. He denies having taken part in any incident. The reason for his dismissal and the non-renewal of his contract has an ideological background.

1. What is the Commission's view on the repression of the right to work on the grounds of political beliefs and of exercising the right to freedom of expression and assembly?
2. How does the Commission ensure that Spain upholds the right to work and the right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, and what further measures could be taken?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/convention\\_eng.pdf](https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/convention_eng.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/peaceful-assembly>

<sup>3</sup> The public business entity in charge of civil air navigation and civil airports in Spain  
<https://www.aena.es/es/aerolineas.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.elpuntavui.cat/politica/article/17-politica/2230399-perd-definitivament-la-feina-al-prat-per-estar-investigat-pel-tsunami.html>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.ara.cat/politica/proces/represaliat-laboral-proces-acomiatat-prat-pel-tall-jonquera\\_1\\_4572018.html](https://www.ara.cat/politica/proces/represaliat-laboral-proces-acomiatat-prat-pel-tall-jonquera_1_4572018.html)