

**Question for written answer E-001113/2023**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI)**

Subject: Foreign interference and conflict of interest between Morocco's DGSN and Spain's CNI

A concerning report published on Sunday 12 March 2023 revealed a secret meeting in Rabat between the head of Morocco's General Directorate for National Security (DGSN) and the director of Spain's National Intelligence Centre (CNI), which is under investigation by Parliament's PEGA Committee<sup>1</sup> for its involvement in the Catalangate scandal<sup>2</sup>. This encounter was meant to be confidential, but was eventually leaked by the daughter of the former chief of the Spanish National Police's General Commissariat of Information, Enrique Barón. These events are confirmed in detail by WhatsApp messages from very senior Spanish police officers. These messages are now under judicial investigation<sup>3</sup>.

It is worth recalling that Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and other Spanish ministers informed the public in May 2022 that there were strong suspicions of Morocco having used Pegasus against them<sup>4</sup>.

The current CNI director declined to answer any questions during the hearing of Parliament's PEGA Committee on Tuesday 29 November 2022<sup>5</sup>.

All this comes against the backdrop of other scandals and a spate of recent deals between Spain and Morocco in relation to security and raw materials, such as phosphorus, as well as Spain's unilateral recognition of Morocco's suzerainty over Western Sahara.

Were the EU Intelligence Analysis Centre and the European External Action Service aware of this situation?

Submitted: 31.3.2023

---

<sup>1</sup> Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware.

<sup>2</sup> <https://catalangate.cat/en/>.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.elconfidencial.com/mundo/2023-03-12/hija-comisario-general-informacion-espana-inteligencia\\_3591208/](https://www.elconfidencial.com/mundo/2023-03-12/hija-comisario-general-informacion-espana-inteligencia_3591208/).

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.europapress.es/nacional/noticia-bolanos-no-comenta-informe-cni-crisis-ceuta-evita-especular-si-marruecos-espio-sanchez-20220606140144.html>.

<sup>5</sup> [https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/committee-of-inquiry-to-investigate-use-of-pegasus-and-equivalent-surveillance-spyware\\_20221129-0900-COMMITTEE-PEGA](https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/committee-of-inquiry-to-investigate-use-of-pegasus-and-equivalent-surveillance-spyware_20221129-0900-COMMITTEE-PEGA).