

**Question for written answer E-002096/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Europol EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2023

Europol Deputy Executive Director Jean-Philippe Lecouffe recently presented Europol's EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2023¹. He acknowledged in a meeting of Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs on 28 June 2023² that Europol's reports are based on information provided by the Member States and that the reported information about terrorism may not always align with the precise definition of terrorism itself.

The report labels the Catalan and Basque independence movements 'the most active and violent' in Spain. Yet questions arise regarding the accuracy and objectivity of these assessments.

There was only one terrorism-related arrest in Spain in 2022, raising doubts about the validity of the report's claims. Critically, the methodology used by Europol and the sources of information utilised require further scrutiny.

1. Could the Commission provide details of the specific criteria employed by Europol when assessing the activity and violence levels of the Catalan and Basque independence movements in its recent terrorism report?
2. What measures does the Commission have in place to ensure the accuracy, objectivity and reliability of the data and information provided to Europol by the Member States for the compilation of these annual terrorism reports?
3. Has the Commission double-checked the facts and data presented in the Europol report against the definition of terrorism provided in EU Directive 2017/541³?

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¹ https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Europol_TE-SAT_2023.pdf.

² https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/committee-on-civil-liberties-justice-and-home-affairs_20230628-1430-COMMITTEE-LIBE.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017L0541>.