

**Question for written answer E-002145/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ibán García Del Blanco (S&D)

Subject: Cultural censorship in Spain

Recently, a wave of cultural censorship has taken place across Spanish municipalities, initiated by the far right party VOX and supported by the People's Party. Plays and other cultural events – ranging from international classics such as Virginia Woolf and Lope de Vega, to a well-known children's film – have been cancelled on account of the themes or communities on which they shine a spotlight: historical remembrance, feminism or the LGTBQ+ community. Other institutional attacks against minorities are all too reminiscent of the illiberal drift observed in Hungary or Poland.

Censorship violates freedom of expression – one of the core values of our democracies and of the EU. It is also at odds with the rights and freedom of artists and cultural diversity. Freedom of expression is enshrined in Article 11 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, as well as the right to freedom of the arts enshrined in Article 13 thereof.

With the above in mind:

1. Will the Commission monitor these events and assess their impact on democratic quality?
2. Does the Commission consider that measures should be taken to protect artistic freedom in the Member States?

Submitted: 6.7.2023