

**Question for written answer E-002395/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Catalan municipalities' discrimination of non-Catalan-speaking companies in their public procurement

In its reply to question E-001179/2023¹ – which denounces the boycott by eleven Catalan municipalities of companies with regard to their access to municipal public procurement on the basis of ideological, political and linguistic criteria – the Commission stated that it 'could consider taking action if it received evidence of a systematic problem of illegal award of contracts that are subject to the public procurement Directives'².

The Catalan Council for the Republic promotes a practice known as '*Consum institucional estratègic*'³ which consists of discrimination against companies that do not speak Catalan, that are not in favour of Catalan independence and that use Spanish. This is in direct violation of Article 18 of Directive 2014/24/EU, which obliges contracting authorities to treat 'economic operators equally and without discrimination'⁴.

This malpractice is already taking place in some municipal councils, such as that of Vic⁵, which requires all relations between the company and the municipality, as well as all the company's communications with citizens, to be in Catalan. What is more, some of these contracts are being subsidised with NextGenerationEU funds, such as those of the municipal council of Amer⁶.

1. Will the Commission investigate the contracts of these Catalan municipalities?
2. What measures will the Commission take to curb the illegal award of contracts?

Submitted: 2.8.2023

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-001179_EN.html

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-001179-ASW_EN.html

³ www.consuminstitucional.cat/

⁴ eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/ES/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32014L0024

⁵ <https://contractaciopublica.cat/en/detall-publicacio/115033870>

⁶ <https://contractaciopublica.cat/en/detall-publicacio/a6e12550-26b4-4d48-5663-0764840107ca/200049480>