

**Question for written answer E-002975/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Pardons for politicians convicted of corruption

We recently found out that the – interim –Spanish Ministry of Justice has started the procedure for pardoning the former Andalusian regional president and other former senior officials convicted of misconduct and embezzlement, in which defraudment involving more than EUR 650 million took place.

Pardoning the crime of embezzling public funds distorts the principle of justice when the pardon is being granted because the guilty parties are fellow members of the ruling party. In its rule of law reports, the Commission has already raised concerns about the changes to the crime of embezzlement.

Given the Commission's focus on monitoring national efforts to tackle corruption:

1. Could the Commission include pardons of a particular kind in its list of risks to the rule of law in the next annual report concerning Spain?
2. Does the Commission believe that these pardons and the amendment of the Criminal Code are in line with the objectives of the new anti-corruption directive?

Submitted: 10.10.2023