

**Question for written answer E-000172/2024/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Dolors Montserrat (PPE)**

Subject: Spanish Government accusations concerning the judiciary

One of Spain's Deputy Prime Ministers has made public statements singling out a judge in a television interview.

Teresa Ribera, the Third Vice-President of the Spanish Government, said that a National High Court judge was deeply involved in politics after that judge had stated that the Supreme Court should investigate Carles Puigdemont, a fugitive from justice, for terrorist offences.

Spain's Council for the Judiciary responded to this serious declaration and accusation on the part of the Spanish Government by stating that the claims were at odds with the principle of institutional loyalty and the general duty of respecting judicial independence. These are inherent to the rule of law of a Member State of the European Union, and the separation of powers is an essential element of that. The Council for the Judiciary maintained that these statements by the government should be roundly condemned, especially if they interfere with an ongoing investigation into the facts of the matter.

Three of the four judges' associations have condemned Ribera's attack on Judge García Castellón and called for the government to show respect.

1. What is the Commission's view of the targeting of judges, especially when it comes from a member of the government?
2. Will it urge the Spanish Government to respect the separation of powers and ensure institutional loyalty?

Submitted:22.1.2024