

**Question for written answer E-000627/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Breach of EU legislation by requiring companies in Girona to use Catalan

In February this year, Girona City Council revised its public procurement process to make it a requirement for all subcontracted companies to use Catalan in both internal communications and in communications with the public, and to penalise any companies that fail to comply.

This goes against the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) by preventing the freedom of establishment of undertakings within the Union¹. It also goes against Article 18 of Directive 2014/24/EU², pointing to serious linguistic discrimination.

In addition, the city's councillor for the Catalan language has said that she will work to ensure that Catalan is present 'in all areas of public and private life'. In fact, harassment of non-Catalan speaking companies is tolerated and permitted by Girona City Council, as recently seen with Polish company Pepco, which was forced to change the text on posters announcing its arrival in the city from the Castilian 'Hola, Gerona' to the Catalan 'Hola, Girona', following insults it received on social media. The City Council welcomed the change by saying 'In Gerona, 100% in Catalan'³.

In light of the above:

1. Will the Commission launch an investigation into this serious infringement of the TFEU?
2. What measures could be taken to help curb discrimination against European companies by public officials?

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¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT>

² <https://www.boe.es/doue/2014/094/L00065-00242.pdf>.

³ https://www.eldebate.com/espana/cataluna/20240223/gerona-exigira-empresas-contratos-publicos-utilicen-catalan-habra-penalizaciones-incumplan_176780.html.