

Question for written answer E-000636/2024

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

Antoni Comín i Oliveres (NI), Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI)

Subject: Another newspaper article referring to a purported EU INTCEN intelligence report alleging links between Russia and the Catalan independence movement

On 26 February 2024, the Spanish national newspaper El País published an article¹ stating that the EU Intelligence and Situation Centre (EU INTCEN) had produced an intelligence report alleging Russian involvement in supporting the Catalan independence movement. This report was said to have been drafted in November 2017.

In September 2021, The New York Times also referred to a report that may have been produced by EU INTCEN. However, in response to our inquiry E-004166/2021², the EEAS informed us that 'EU INTCEN intelligence assessments are mainly based on the strategic intelligence assessments of EU Member States' and that EU INTCEN was 'not the author of the report mentioned in the article'.

On 6 February 2024, Commission Vice-President Schinas stated in Parliament that there were reports of frequent and close contacts between Russian officials and representatives of a Catalan secessionist group between 2017 and 2020. We raised question P-000419/2024³ regarding this issue, which has still not been answered.

1. Did EU INTCEN draft the report mentioned in El País?
2. If so, did EU INTCEN produce the report on its own initiative, or upon the request of the VP/HR or another EU institution?
3. Is the report mentioned in El País the same one as that mentioned in The New York Times?

Submitted: 27.2.2024

¹ <https://elpais.com/espana/2024-02-26/un-informe-de-la-inteligencia-europea-traza-vinculos-entre-el-independentismo-catalan-y-el-kremlin.html>.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-004166_EN.html.

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2024-000419_EN.html.