

**Question for written answer E-000644/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ana Miranda (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Steps taken by Spain's Partido Popular Government in the Alvia case

On 22 February 2024, after an in-depth investigation, Galician journalist David Reineró revealed on the *praza.gal* news website that the Partido Popular Government, led by former Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, had tried to strong-arm the European Union into not revealing or at least minimising its criticism of Spain's official inquiry into the Alvia train accident in Santiago de Compostela in July 2013. That enquiry found that responsibility for the accident – which had killed 81 people – lay solely with the train driver.

Praza.gal revealed on its website in 2022 that the Minister of Public Works in 2013, Ana Pastor, had sent a letter to former Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc warning her of 'political measures' should a report criticising Spain be published. The outlet now reveals that José Manuel García-Margallo, who was the Minister for Foreign Affairs at that time and is now an MEP, put pressure on the then President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, in this regard.

In any event, almost 11 years after the accident, Spain has yet to carry out the independent technical investigation required under EU law.

Is the Commission aware of this serious interference by the Spanish Government at that time, which sought to muzzle an investigation?

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