

**Question for written answer P-005366/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D)

Subject: Letter from the Commission to the Spanish Government regarding autonomous community legislation designed to ensure housing fulfils its social function

The Spanish media in recent days have relayed information disclosed by the Spanish Ministry of Finance referring to a letter supposedly sent by the Commission to the Spanish Government. The letter is reported to have requested information about the legislative initiatives planned or announced by certain autonomous communities with the aim of mitigating the social fallout of evictions and the possible impact on the banking sector. Specifically, the Commission would be referring to Decree-Law No 6/2013 of 9 April, initiated by the Regional Government of Andalusia, on measures to ensure housing fulfils its social function.

A spokesperson for the Commission has denied that such a letter exists. It seems clear that the Spanish Government sought to use the Commission as a means to challenge the measures initiated by the Government of Andalusia.

1. What was the nature of the letter sent by the Commission to the Spanish Government regarding this issue?
2. Is the Commission aware that the Spanish Government is using this letter to harass the autonomous communities behind legislative efforts to protect the interests of those particularly vulnerable to the economic crisis and the turmoil surrounding evictions, thus ensuring housing fulfils its social function? What is the Commission's view of the Spanish Government using institutional correspondence to serve its own political interests and to undermine autonomous communities where it has no power?
3. Will the Commission act with the same diligence it applies to safeguarding the financial sector when it comes to implementing, without delay, the aid and support measures needed to address the plight facing youth unemployed in Spain?