

**Priority question for written answer P-003967/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Russian interference in European democracies

The Spanish National Court has launched an investigation into possible interference in Spanish internal politics by Unit 29155, a Russian military intelligence organisation, which is suspected of encouraging the Catalan separatist movement. According to the intelligence services of a number of countries, it has been involved in various attempts to destabilise Europe ¹.

This is not the first time that the hand of Russia has been detected behind attempts to destabilise European countries.

In November 2017, while investigating allegations of Russian plotting to influence the US presidential elections, the US Senate Intelligence Committee also uncovered evidence of Russian interference in the French and German elections and in the Catalan separatist movement ².

In May, the German secret services expressed 'concern' at Russian support for Catalan separatism after receiving information from other European services, which they considered 'highly plausible' and 'convincing'.

Furthermore, Parliament has repeatedly given warnings about Russian attempts to destabilise our democracies and weaken the European Union. In view of this:

What steps will the new Commission take to combat Russian interference in the political and electoral processes of the Member States?

¹ https://elpais.com/politica/2019/11/20/actualidad/1574276025_237776.html

² https://elpais.com/elpais/2017/11/03/inenglish/1509707476_016214.html