

**Question for written answer E-001661/2024**

**to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Appointment by Pedro Sánchez of Spanish Government minister as governor of the Bank of Spain

On 4 September 2024, Spain's Minister of the Economy confirmed the appointment of José Luis Escrivá – still a minister in Pedro Sánchez's Government – as the new governor of the Bank of Spain. The controversial decision means that a serving minister will lead a financial regulator that will have to make decisions about economic policy that he himself approved.

Escrivá is the latest in a long list of members of the government and the PSOE who have been placed by Sánchez in institutions and bodies that should be independent to ensure Spain's democracy works as it should. Among other cases, a similar situation occurred with the Public Prosecutor's Office.

In light of the above:

1. Will the Commission investigate whether the recent appointments by the head of the Spanish Government meet the democratic criteria laid down in the EU Treaties?
2. Given his connection to the current Spanish Government, does the Commission believe that a conflict of interest may arise when the new governor of the Bank of Spain carries out his duties?
3. Does the Commission believe that one way of ensuring the rule of law is keeping regulatory and oversight bodies and institutions independent from the government?

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