

**Question for written answer E-002748/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Adrián Vázquez Lázara (PPE)

Subject: Appointment of Spain's State Secretary for Communication

As an MEP, I would like to express my concern about pluralism and freedom of the press in Spain as they are two core pillars of the European Union.

The Spanish Government recently appointed the press chief of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) as State Secretary for Communication, a controversial choice given that he is a member of the ruling party and considering his track record in intimidating journalists on social media in his previous position.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of the public complaints made by journalists in Spain about the new State Secretary stifling their freedom of expression?
2. Does the Commission not consider that the practices complained of could jeopardise the principles of press freedom and pluralism, which are enshrined in the Treaties, in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and in the Media Freedom Act?
3. What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that these principles are respected in Spain and in the EU as a whole?

Press freedom and media pluralism are crucial in protecting our democracy and in guaranteeing the right of citizens to independent information.

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