

**Question for written answer E-002071/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Scandal involving espionage and sabotage operations against political opponents in Spain

A scandal has surfaced in Spain with the possible involvement, direct or indirect, of governing political parties and parts of the national media. These facts represent a serious attack on the rule of law and free political participation.

The scandal involves espionage and sabotage operations against political opponents, allegedly orchestrated by the Spanish Interior Ministry during the administration of former Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy (Popular Party) and carried out by high-ranking police officials, together with parts of the national media.

The arrival of five 'Podemos' MEPs in the European Parliament in 2014, with opinion polls indicating increasing support for the party in subsequent elections, may be the reason behind these 'dirty war' operations.

The fabrication of damning evidence to create a smear campaign, and the theft of a mobile phone from a parliamentary assistant of Pablo Iglesias days after he left his seat in the European Parliament, are part of this series of events that has become known as the 'cesspit of the Spanish state'.

Given this blunt violation of fundamental rights and the rule of law in Spain, what measures does the Commission intend to take, in its role as guarantor of respect for EU values and legislation?