

**Question for written answer
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE), Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE), Jordi Solé (Verts/ALE), Josu Juaristi Abaunz (GUE/NGL), Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE), Mark Demesmaeker (ECR), Sander Loones (ECR), Anneleen Van Bossuyt (ECR), Bodil Valero (Verts/ALE), Jill Evans (Verts/ALE), Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE), António Marinho e Pinto (ALDE)

Subject: State of rule of law in Spain: state prosecutor files a complaint against Catalan Minister Borràs for the purchase of ballot boxes

Spanish state prosecutor José María Romero de Tejada has filed a complaint against the Catalan Minister for Governance, Meritxell Borràs, and the Secretary-General of this department, Francesc Esteve, for having started the process of purchasing ballot boxes intended for the referendum on independence to be held next September as well as future Catalan elections.

The state prosecution accuses Borràs¹ of the crimes of malfeasance, disobedience and misuse of public funds in relation to the tender for 8,000 ballot boxes for the referendum, which was published last week in the DOGC (Catalan official gazette). In contrast, the government of Andalusia has also bought around 8.000 ballot boxes since the year 2000 with no reaction from the judiciary². The state prosecutor has acted against Borràs, as the Spanish government spokesperson, Mendez de Vigo, announced it would some days ago, raising the suspicion of its interference into the judiciary system³.

Moreover, in the last years, it has been revealed several times that ministers⁴ and high ranking politicians⁵ linked to the Spanish government have interfered into the judicial system with clear political motives⁶.

Is the Commission aware of these events?

Taking all of them into account, will the Commission launch an investigation over the state of the rule of law in Spain?

¹ <http://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/the-spanish-state-prosecution-files-a-complaint-against-minister-borras-for-the-purchase-of-ballot-boxes-for-the-referendum-meritxell-catalonia/>

² http://www.ara.cat/politica/Andalusia-propies-des-lany_0_1775822436.html

³ <http://www.efe.com/efe/espana/politica/el-gobierno-dice-que-la-fiscalia-actuara-si-generalitat-licita-compra-de-urnas/10002-3257692>

⁴ <http://www.publico.es/politica/fernandez-diaz-fiscalia-afima-gestion.html>

⁵ <http://www.publico.es/politica/sanchez-camacho-fiscal-confianza-del.html>

⁶ <http://www.elmundo.es/espana/2017/02/23/58ae97ae22601d614c8b460e.html>