

**Question for written answer E-014177/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Attack on judicial independence

The Catalan High Court has charged¹ the President of the Catalan Regional Government, Artur Mas, former Vice-President Joana Ortega and Catalan minister Irene Rigau with disobedience, perversion of justice, usurping authority and the misuse of public funds when they failed to uphold the ruling of Spain's constitutional court forbidding the organisation of a mock referendum on Catalan independence. If found guilty the accused could be barred from holding public office².

Members of the regional government organised a demonstration in support of the accused on the steps of the courthouse. The Court criticised this situation as 'calling into question the legitimacy of the judges and seeking to influence their decision-making. This amounts to a direct attack on the independence of the judiciary, calling into question one of the fundamental principles of the constitutional state'³.

Does the Commission consider that regional governments pursuing a strategy of harassment and intimidation against the judiciary and organising demonstrations on courthouse steps with the aim of influencing their decision-making is compatible with Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union?

¹ <http://ep00.epimg.net/descargables/2014/11/04/585b99dc456a8ce343f44e1f6ca12ded.pdf>

² <http://www.elcorreo.com/apoyos/documentos/querella-9-n.pdf>

³ <http://www.poderjudicial.es/cgpj/es/Poder-Judicial/Tribunales-Superiores-de-Justicia/TSJ-Cataluna/Sala-de-prensa/Notas-de-prensa/Comunicado-Sala-de-Gobierno-TSJCatal-13-octubre-2015>