

**Question for written answer E-002957/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Dolors Montserrat (PPE)

Subject: Attack on the independence of judges

In mid-December 2024, the Spanish Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez, accused his political adversary of learning of judicial decisions before anyone else and of ‘playing with marked cards’, pointing out that judges could be taking decisions for political reasons. He also said he was ‘concerned’ that there may have been ‘a judge contributing’ to the work of opposition.

While the credibility of the judiciary is under direct attack, the Prime Minister’s wife, Begoña Gómez, is under investigation, as are his brother, David Sánchez; his former right-hand man in the PSOE and government, José Luis Ábalos; and his Attorney General, Álvaro García Ortiz.

The President of the General Council of the Judiciary and the Supreme Court, Isabel Perelló, has subsequently condemned the fact that ‘pressure’ is being placed on judges.

In the light of this state of affairs:

1. In the Commission’s view, are the government’s attacks on the investigating judges looking into the cases against the socialist leader’s inner circle acceptable?
2. Will the Commission initiate a structured dialogue with the government in the context of the forthcoming rule of law report to stop attacks on the judiciary from the government?

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