

Question for written answer E-003586/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Dolors Montserrat (PPE)

Subject: Spanish Ministry of the Interior breaches EU law and attacks the freedom of the press

The Spanish Ministry of the Interior has produced an internal dossier with individualised files on dozens of active journalists, including photographs and assessments of their political orientation and ideology, affinity with the government and left-wing or right-wing positions.

These facts raise serious questions in light of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR), Article 9 of which provides for enhanced protection of data revealing political opinions, and Regulation (EU) 2024/1083 (European Media Freedom Act).

1. Does the Commission consider it compatible with EU law (in particular with Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the GDPR and Articles 7, 8 and 11 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights) for a government to collect, classify and keep ideological profiles on journalists without their permission?
2. Does the Commission think that creating or using those profiles could constitute interference that is incompatible with the freedom, editorial independence and pluralism of the media that is protected by Regulation (EU) 2024/1083, especially when the authority responsible deals with media relations and institutional advertising?
3. Will it ask the Spanish Government for explanations and, if it is confirmed that EU law has been violated, what specific action – including, where appropriate, opening infringement proceedings under Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union – will it take?

Submitted: 9.9.2026