

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003019/24
to the Commission
Adrián Vázquez Lázara (PPE)
(18 December 2024)**

Subject: Spanish judiciary continues to face pressure and attacks from Pedro Sánchez's government

On Monday 12 December 2024, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez made a statement to the press in which he accused the judiciary of harassing the government in collusion with the opposition political parties.

In view of the seriousness of these accusations, the President of the Supreme Court and General Council of the Judiciary, Isabel Perelló, issued a statement ⁽¹⁾ on 13 December in which she reiterated that judicial independence is one of the core tenets of the rule of law.

Against a backdrop of corruption scandals, the Spanish Prime Minister chose a strategy of directly attacking the judiciary, adding to the list of breaches of the rule of law that he has committed in recent years.

In view of this:

1. Is the European Commission going to apply in this conflict the tools at its disposal to defend the pillars of the rule of law?
2. Ignoring the double standards at play, is the European executive prepared to inform any EU government that violates the fundamental principle of the rule of law that it is doing so?

Submitted: 18.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(4 March 2025)**

In the 2022, 2023 and 2024 country chapters on the rule of law situation in Spain ⁽¹⁾, the Commission underlined that stakeholders had raised concerns about public statements made by politicians criticising the judiciary.

In this context, the Commission recalled that, according to European standards, while courts are not immune to criticism and scrutiny, the judiciary must enjoy public confidence to be successful in view of its special role in society.

This is particularly important in relation to statements by members of the legislative and the executive branches, as all powers of the State must foster and protect the trust of the general public in constitutional institutions including the judiciary.

This is an issue not specific to Spain alone, and in the Rule of Law Report the Commission has recalled these standards in comparable situations in other Member States.

¹ <https://www.poderjudicial.es/cgpj/es/Poder-Judicial/Consejo-General-del-Poder-Judicial/Oficina-de-Comunicacion/Archivo-de-notas-de-prensa/Comunicado-de-la-presidenta-del-TS-y-del-CGPJ>.
(¹) https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/abdcd1f9-681e-43be-980b-f4205c3e0556_en?filename=23_1_194017_coun_chap_spain_en.pdf,
https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/62fdb34b-78d4-4d53-b9ea-67286facc01e_en?filename=23_1_52576_coun_chap_spain_en.pdf and
https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/2bd09a6f-ef56-494a-8303-e0de808ee981_en?filename=23_1_58063_coun_chap_spain_en_0.pdf