

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003078/24
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(20 December 2024)**

Subject: Revision of the 2023 Rule of Law Report

The EU Rule of Law Reports published in recent years are based on false information. The arrest by the Polish authorities of the Russian spy Pavel Rubtsov, a.k.a. Pablo González Yagüe, was categorised in the 2023 report as a violation of media freedom in Poland. Moreover, this formed the basis for media and political attacks on the previous Polish Government.

I therefore ask for a clear answer to the following question:

Will the Commission amend the 2023 Rule of Law Report and apologise to Poland for the smear campaign conducted against it?

Submitted: 20.12.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(5 March 2025)**

The country chapter for Poland of the 2023 Rule of Law Report mentions the case of Pablo González under the pillar of media freedom and factually reports on his arrest by the Polish Security Services and the charge of illegal espionage on behalf of Russia ⁽¹⁾.

The information related to the case included in the report had been brought at the time to the attention of the Commission by different organisations as well as an alert published on the Council of Europe's platform.

The Commission did not make an assessment about such information and usually refers to such alerts in its Rule of Law Report in relation to all Member States.

The Commission is aware of the subsequent outcome of the case revealed in 2024 and considers it important and pays careful attention to any references to individual cases in the Rule of Law Reports.

The Commission has strongly condemned Russia's espionage, hybrid threats and disinformation campaigns and there can be no doubt of its position in this regard.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/b576c76e-0755-4690-9266-7895c4294433_en?filename=48_1_52627_coun_chap_poland_en.pdf