

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000244/25
to the Commission
Nora Junco García (ECR), Diego Solier (ECR)
(21 January 2025)**

Subject: New directives allowing corruption in Spain

In the context of recent EU reforms and legislative proposals to combat corruption (such as the Whistleblower Protection Directive ⁽¹⁾), it is essential to reinforce transparency. In Spain, there are worrying signs of practices that erode public trust, forcing us to reflect on the integrity of Western democracies.

Under the leadership of Pedro Sánchez, there are worrying signs of corruption and partisan use of power, with power-linked scandals such as those involving his wife Begoña Gómez and his brother David Sánchez, who are currently facing accusations of corruption and nepotism.

In Spain, partitocracy and the misuse of public resources undermine public trust. Moreover, tight control over key institutions jeopardises the separation of powers, an essential principle of any functional democracy.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission considering an independent review of institutional governance in Spain to assess its compliance with democratic principles?
2. What oversight and transparency tools can be strengthened to prevent abuse of power and clientelism in the Member States?
3. What measures does the Commission plan to take to ensure that EU funds in Spain are not used for corrupt or partisan purposes?

Submitted: 21.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(22 April 2025)**

Through its annual Rule of Law Report, the Commission monitors developments in all Member States, related to the anti-corruption framework.

The Commission is engaging with all Member States, including Spain, on the follow up given to the 2024 Report's recommendations and will report on developments in its next Rule of Law Report.

Upholding the rule of law across the EU is a priority for the Commission, as reflected by the President's Political Guidelines. The Commission envisages further measures to ensure that the future long-term budget has strong anti-corruption safeguards applying to all funds, and that European funding is dedicated to supporting national measures on fighting corruption and protecting the financial interests of both the EU and its Member States.

Furthermore, legislative negotiations are ongoing on a Commission proposal for a directive on combating corruption ⁽¹⁾, which aims to strengthen the fight against and prevention of corruption in the EU.

¹ Directive (EU) 2019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law (OJ L 305, 26.11.2019, p. 17, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/1937/oj>).
⁽¹⁾ COM (2023) 234, final.