

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003945/25
to the Commission
Dolors Montserrat (PPE)
(8 October 2025)**

Subject: Corruption and rule of law in Spain

A report by the Central Operational Unit (UCO) of Spain's Guardia Civil has been published containing revelations that the former Minister for Transport, José Luis Ábalos, allegedly received irregular and opaque payments from the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) in the form of cash overpayments for unexplained amounts and items. Part of these payments included tax-free allowances totalling around EUR 800 000 between 2014 and 2024 for income of EUR 1.5 million, without any clear supporting documents for the expenses.

In view of this state of affairs:

1. Taken together with the shortcomings concerning Spain highlighted in the 2025 Rule of Law Report — supervision of political financing, traceability of funds and monitoring of public spending —, does the Commission believe that these facts exacerbate this situation of corruption and this breaching of the principle of transparency?
2. Is the Commission considering issuing new recommendations and strengthening monitoring of the PSOE's compliance with EU rules on political financing and transparency of funds, in line with Article 10 of the Treaty on European Union, concerning transparency and accountability, and Article 325 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, concerning the fight against fraud and corruption?

Submitted: 8.10.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(26 November 2025)**

The Commission reports on developments related to the rule of law in Member States under the annual Rule of Law Report, including on the effectiveness of the fight against corruption. The Commission addresses recommendations to Member States on matters relating to the functioning of the rule of law, and these findings are the subject of further exchanges with the national authorities and relevant stakeholders and of continuous monitoring by the Commission.

Regarding Spain, the 2025 Rule of Law Report ⁽¹⁾ noted that work on the revision of the Code of Criminal Procedure is ongoing and more resources have been provided to reduce the length of investigations and prosecutions of high-level corruption. Some initial steps were taken to strengthen the rules on conflict of interest for persons in top executive functions. Political party financing remains a high-risk area and no steps have been taken to reform the electoral legislation in line with recommendations made by the Court of Auditors.

Concerning specific allegations of corruption, Member States are responsible for maintaining law and order in their jurisdiction. Therefore, the Commission does not comment on individual cases.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2025-rule-law-report-communication-and-country-chapters_en.