

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004476/25
to the Commission**

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(11 November 2025)

Subject: Possible government interference in the statistical independence of the Spanish National Statistics Institute and impact on the EU's financial interests

Nadia Calviño, former Vice-President of the Government of Spain and current President of the European Investment Bank, has admitted to having 'helped' the National Statistics Institute (INE) from the Ministry of Economy to modify its GDP calculation methodology in order to show higher economic growth for Spain and thus align with the government's political narrative.

This admission, and the subsequent resignation of INE President Juan Manuel Rodríguez Poo in June 2022, following pressure from then Vice-President Nadia Calviño would confirm a serious violation of the professional independence of the INE, as guaranteed by Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 223/2009 ⁽¹⁾ and a breach of the European Statistics Code of Practice ⁽²⁾.

In this context:

Does the Commission assess this interference, bordering on manipulation of statistical methods, to be compatible with the European Statistics Code of Practice and INE independence?

Submitted: 11.11.2025

Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(2 February 2026)

Spanish gross domestic product (GDP) data have been published by Eurostat following the standard validation procedures in place for all Member States.

The revisions of GDP in Spain published in 2024 were in line with the methodology provided for in Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts (ESA 2010) ⁽¹⁾.

They were due to the implementation of a regular benchmark revision of national accounts and balance of payments done in a coordinated way in all Member States, carried out at least once every five years to incorporate new data sources and major changes in international statistical methodology.

The impact of the revisions on Spanish nominal GDP of 1.6% (average per year over 2020-2023) was within the range of -3.8% and 6.8% observed for the other Member States.

The average revision of the annual real GDP growth rates was 0.3 percentage points in Spain (average per year over 2020-2023) while the average revision for Member States varied between -0.4 percentage points and 1.1 percentage points.

The Commission continuously monitors compliance by the Member States with EU legislation. The most relevant legislation in this particular context is Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics ⁽²⁾, mentioned by the Honourable Members.

This regulation establishes the statistical principles, including the principle of professional independence, which are further elaborated in the European Statistics Code of Practice ⁽³⁾.

As the Commission noted in its reply to Written Question P-002326/2022 ⁽⁴⁾, it does not have any information indicating that regulation (EC) No 223/2009 would have been violated in relation to the decision by the President of the Spanish National Statistics Institute to resign in 2022.

¹ OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/223/oj>.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/european-quality-standards/european-statistics-code-of-practice>.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union, OJ L 174 26.6.2013, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/549/2025-09-01>.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics, OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/223/oj>.

⁽³⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/european-quality-standards/european-statistics-code-of-practice>.

⁽⁴⁾ P-002326/2022 — https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2022-002326-ASW_EN.html.