

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000493/26
to the Commission**

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(6 February 2026)

Subject: Follow-up to Question E-004476/2025 on government interference in the Spanish National Statistics Institute

The answer to Question E-004476/2025 ⁽¹⁾ merely indicates that the revisions to Spanish GDP published in 2024 were formally in line with the ESA 2010 methodology and that the impact was within the range observed for other Member States. The answer does not address the essence of the question posed, however: the former Vice-President of the Government of Spain's admission that she interfered in the National Statistics Institute and the impact that political interference may have had on the national statistics authority's professional independence, which is protected by Regulation (EU) No 223/2009 and the European Statistics Code of Practice.

In view of this:

1. As the guardian of the Treaties, does the Commission consider that mere formal compliance with the ESA 2010 statistical methodology is enough to rule out a breach of the principle of professional independence — when public statements have been made on political interference and the president of the National Statistics Institute has resigned?
2. What supervisory and monitoring mechanisms has the Commission put in place to safeguard the professional independence of the National Statistics Institute?
3. What is the Commission's assessment of whether such political pressure could have affected internal methodological decision-making procedures, regardless of the outcome of the revisions?

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Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(1 April 2026)

In line with the previous answers to written parliamentary questions E- P-2326/22 ⁽¹⁾ and E-004476/2025 ⁽²⁾, the Commission emphasises that it has no information indicating that the professional independence of the Spanish National Statistical Institute (INE) was affected — neither in relation to the Spanish gross domestic product (GDP) data as revised in 2024, nor in relation to the decision by the President of INE to resign in 2022.

The Commission has taken and will continue to take active steps to ensure full compliance with EU statistical law in all Member States, including continuing to safeguard the professional independence of statistical authorities.

At the same time, it is worth recalling that the legal framework on European statistics ⁽³⁾ contains dedicated mechanisms such as statistical quality assessments ⁽⁴⁾, which provide further reassurance on the integrity of national statistics.

In addition, the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board provides an independent overview of the European Statistical System as regards the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice. Peer reviews are also regularly carried out within the European Statistical System and are publicised to facilitate public scrutiny ⁽⁵⁾.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004476_EN.html

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2022-002326-ASW_EN.html.

⁽²⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004476-ASW_EN.html.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities, OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164; ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/223/2024-12-26>.

⁽⁴⁾ See <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/european-quality-standards> and in particular <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/4031688/8717565/KS-02-17-428-ES-N.pdf/36a448bd-c76d-46b9-85f8-35e0e3ae1473?t=1520260462000>.

⁽⁵⁾ See <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/quality/peer-reviews/third-round>.