

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001683/24
to the Commission
Nicolás González Casares (S&D)
(11 September 2024)**

Subject: Legal Service Meeting

On 11 September, the Director-General of the Commission's Legal Service met with the Minister for the Environment of the Galician Government to discuss what it referred to as 'the wind industry situation in Galicia' and the 'preliminary question brought by the High Court of Justice in Galicia at the end of June' before the Court of Justice of the European Union. I was surprised to see that the Galician Government Minister was accompanied by a representative of her political party, Adrián Vázquez MEP, who does not hold an institutional position in the Government of Galicia, in a blatant partisan use of the institutions.

1. Can the Commission explain why a political representative who is not a member of either of the executives in question was allowed to be present at an institutional meeting, and are senior staff at the Commission not aware of the duty to respect the guidelines for good administrative behaviour?
2. What actions did the Minister request or propose to the Commission that could affect the preliminary question, how did the Commission respond to those requests or proposals and does the Commission not believe that there is a danger of interference in its work?
3. Does the Commission recommend that Galicia follow the standards set out in the revised Renewable Energy Directive in relation to the planning of acceleration areas and of public participation?

Submitted: 11.9.2024

**Answer given by President von der Leyen on behalf of the European Commission
(3 January 2025)**

The meeting between the Director-General of the Legal Service of the Commission and the Galician Regional Minister for the Environment, Territory and Housing, took place on 11 September 2024 per request of the Minister.

The Legal Service of the Commission was not informed in advance that Mr Adrián Vázquez, Member of the European Parliament and former Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs, would be part of the delegation.

Mr Vázquez joined the meeting in full respect of the rules and principles applicable to the relations between the European Parliament and the Commission, which by no means prohibit such meetings between Members of the European Parliament and senior management of the Commission services.

In case of such contacts, the Legal Service acts in line with the institutional obligations of the Commission under the duty of mutual sincere cooperation with the European Parliament (Article 13(2) Treaty on European Union).

During the meeting, the Galician regional authorities provided information as to the situation of renewable energy in the region. The Commission services took note and provided explanations as to the applicable EU legislation in place.

As regards the preliminary ruling case from the High Court of Justice in Galicia, the Commission services made very clear that the case is pending and '*sub iudice*' before the European Court of Justice, and that therefore they cannot comment on the position to be taken by the Commission, as *amicus curiae*.
