

**Question for written answer
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jordi Solé (Verts/ALE), **Diana Riba i Giner** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Political dependence of the General Council of the Judiciary in Spain

The General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ) is the governing body of the Judiciary branch in Spain.

Since 1985, all its 20 members have been appointed by the Spanish Congress and Senate by a 3/5 majority, which essentially requires the agreement between the two largest political parties, PP and PSOE.

In November 2018, these two parties initially agreed to renew the CGPJ. Following their agreement, the spokesperson for Partido Popular in the Senate wrote to his senators that with this deal they would control from behind the Criminal Chamber and Chamber 61 of the Supreme Court, both judging cases against politicians and political parties. Since then these 2 parties couldn't find a new agreement, so that the CGPJ has been acting for over 3 years with an expired mandate. All this shows the extreme political dependency of the CGPJ.

The Council of Europe's GRECO has been demanding since 2013 in its annual report that Spain corrects this anomaly. The Commission's Report on the Rule of Law 2020 also expresses its concern on this issue.

What actions will the Commission undertake to ensure that Spain complies with rule of law standards to guarantee the independence of the CGPJ from political parties?