



Brussels,
JUST/C1/IW/lnt/4079648s

Dear petitioner,

Thank you for your petition of 6 May 2018 to First Vice-President Timmermans, in which you express personal views on the current situation in Catalonia.

Let me start by saying that the Commission has publicly stated since October 2017 its position concerning this issue. This position was echoed by First Vice-President Timmermans in his intervention in the Plenary Session of the European Parliament on 4 October 2017.

On these occasions, the Commission expressed its trust in the leadership of the Spanish authorities to manage this difficult process in full respect of the Spanish Constitution and of the fundamental rights of citizens enshrined therein.

Last 11 October, the Commission again reiterated its earlier call for the full respect of the Spanish Constitutional order and its trust in the Spanish Institutions and all political forces who are working towards a solution within the framework of the Spanish Constitution.

The above statements remain entirely valid.

As to the issue of Mr Puigdemont's arrest in Germany in March 2018 in execution of a European arrest warrant issued by Spanish judicial authorities, such a procedure, which is laid down by the Framework Decision on the European arrest warrant¹ is an entirely judicial one. Neither the Commission nor the Member States' government authorities can interfere or have any influence in relation to decisions of the Spanish judicial authorities in this particular case. As you might know, in the meantime, they have withdrawn the relevant European arrest warrant.

Yours sincerely,

Tiina Astola

¹ Council Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA of 13 June 2002 on the European arrest warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States ([OJ 2002 L 190, p. 1](#)), as amended by Council Framework Decision 2009/299/JHA of 26 February 2009 ([OJ 2009 L 81, p. 24](#); 'the Framework Decision').