



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Alyn Smith MEP

Member of the European Parliament for Scotland
Scottish National Party, on your side in Europe
www.alynsmith.eu

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Our Ref: AES/Catalunya

When replying please reply to: Brussels

Jean-Claude Juncker
President
European Commission

Dear Mr Juncker

Discrepancy between EN and ES versions of PQ E-011776-15

I write to underline the urgency to your already announced internal inquiry into the remarkable discrepancy between the Spanish and English language versions of the above Parliamentary Question Answer.

I am sure you will agree, the difference in the two is such that there are in fact two quite different answers. This difference, to my mind, given the material difference in content (and indeed even in the length of the text) cannot in any reasonable sense be attributed to error, mistranslation or miscommunication.

I am given to understand that the English language version was approved personally by you and is the "true" version. This makes sense, and is consistent with previous Commission answers on such matters.

However, in the subsequent creation of the Spanish version, there has clearly been a major breach of trust by perhaps even just one individual within your services, and it is rather important this individual or individuals be identified and their motives uncovered.

Equally significantly, there has clearly been a major failure in process on the part of your services in that the text was approved for publication.

You will of course be aware that the timing also is remarkably unfortunate given the democratic elections underway in Catalunya. Your Commission has been put in a very unfortunate position, and the credibility of the Commission as an honest broker in the eyes of the people (which may come to be very important rather soon) is I believe at stake unless a swift resolution to this is found.

I hope that your inquiry proves fruitful, and look forward to hearing of your findings and the consequences for the individuals involved.

Yours aye,

Alyn Smith MEP

alyn.smith@europarl.europa.eu

Office ASP4F343, European Parliament, B-1047 Brussels, Belgium - Tel 0032 2 28 45187
TechCube, 1 Summerhall, Edinburgh, EH9 1PL, Scotland - Tel 0044 131 290 2149