

Brussels, 23rd November 2023

Dear Sandro,

The elections of 23rd July in Spain left a complicated panorama. The PP (EPP) won the elections but without a majority to govern. The Socialist Party, as well as the populist left, nationalists, secessionists and political heirs of terrorists could only get a majority with the fugitive from justice Carles Puigdemont.

Sánchez could have called new elections, but he preferred to make a pact with the fugitive. From the point of view of facts, he will grant him amnesty; from the point of view of ideas, he agrees with him, as if the serious crimes were not crimes, even indicating lawfare. This nonsense has led to the mobilisation of all judges and prosecutors in the country, among others.

Since the announcement of an amnesty for those convicted and accused of embezzlement, crimes against the rule of law and terrorism, there have been massive and peaceful demonstrations in broad daylight by hundreds of thousands of citizens trying to prevent this and other measures that would mean a fraudulent constitutional mutation with unforeseeable consequences. At the same time, some masked radicals try to unleash violence at night, in a localised manner in front of the main headquarters of the socialist party, mingling among non-violent citizens who are also expressing their discontent.

Political crises are becoming more and more complex, as you well know.

I am writing to you because the Communication director of the socialist party, the governing party, tweeted on 18th November an image generated by Artificial Intelligence showing fake demonstrators with dehumanised, savage and brutal features on the verge of extreme violence. I attach the image, which you can also find on X: <https://twitter.com/ionantolin/status/1725948337407381755>. The tweet did not specify that it was Artificial Intelligence.

The more power, the more responsibility in the way public opinion is conducted. The fact that the party in power engages in political manipulation and disinformation with AI is really serious, because it marks a new frontier that weakens the democratic game. If such behaviour is not stopped, democracy will not survive.

According to Parliament's negotiating position, we have to prevent political advertising from becoming a vector of disinformation and make it impossible to proclaim covert, contradictory and polarising messages aimed at certain parts of the electorate.

I am very interested in knowing your point of view and to know if the final text that has come out of the negotiations can really help us to approach this problem that is constantly increasing in our democracies. We would like to be able to react to these concrete facts with full knowledge of the facts.

Sincerely,



Maite Pagazaurtundua

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