



PRESS RELEASE 21.5.2023

**EUROPEAN BUSINESSMEN ASKED TO AVOID
SPANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE EU COUNCIL**

Yesterday, May 20, 2023, the Denouncers of Judicial Authoritarianism alliance has informed the business employers of several European countries, that on April 16, 2023, it requested the European Union to suspend the Spanish presidency of the Council until Spain demonstrates that it does not have serious systemic deficiencies in its rule of law.

The request is made in view of the announcement that Business Europe, the federation of European business employers' associations, will meet at the end of May and beginning of June to ask the European Union not to increase European social spending, under the Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Alliance is taking advantage of this interest of European businessmen to inform them of the terrible Spanish reality. In addition, the Brussels offices of these employers' associations have also been informed, in order to promote dialogue in the European Union on the necessary suspension of the Spanish presidency.

The message sent was as follows:

Businessmen,

We are contacting you to inform you that we have requested the suspension (postponement) of the Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union.

We have read in the press that the Business Europe organization is going to meet in Spain soon, to agree to ask the European Union that during the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU, not to focus all spending on social issues.

Between 11.11.2022 and 14.4.2023, from the Spanish alliance Denunciantes del Autoritarismo Judicial we have sent a set of

denunciations that reflect the criminal reality of the Spanish institutions. In an unprecedented way, the European Commission is processing these complaints in its economic unit and in its Rule of Law unit.

In 2018, Eurostat published that corruption in Spain almost reached 8% of GDP, far exceeding the 4.8% of GDP of the EU average.

As you know the European Union (EU) is basing much of its strategies, on an annual report on the Rule of Law of each Member State.

Given the importance of this report, on 16.4.2023 we sent our report on the Spanish Rule of Law in 2022 to the European Union, based on our set of complaints. In the email we requested that Spain be provisionally declared to have serious deficiencies in its rule of law, until the Government responds to our complaints, and that the Spanish presidency of the EU Council be suspended, until Spain demonstrates that its rule of law works.

We sent the report to the Swedish government (current presidency of the Council of the EU), to several high-ranking MEPs and to several senior officials of the European Commission and we have not yet received a response from any of the addressees.

We ask you to support our request for the suspension of the Spanish presidency of the Council of the EU and to ask that this presidency not be held by any state with a corruption rate above the EU average, according to Eurostat data.

Please find attached the referred report on the Spanish Rule of Law in 2022 and the related complaints.

Javier Marzal

Portavoz de Denunciantes del Autoritarismo Judicial (Judicial Authoritarian Complainants)

More information at www.contraautoritarismojudicial.org (english, español, française, deutsche)