

Written statement by Ryan Health

20th July 2016

“Hello from Cleveland, Ohio to everyone gathered at Place Lux tonight, sorry I can’t be with you.

I want to say that you’re right to ask these questions about Spanish influence in the European institutions.

My first comment is that influence is about much more than just holding a top position, so I don’t see the lack of a Spaniard in one of the Presidencies, for example, should not be taken as a lack of influence.

You have a very influential Commissioners, and highly respected Directors-General such as Nadia Calvino.

On the MEP side, it is true that I think Spain underperforms. Pablo Iglesias is one example of an ex-MEP who would have been on my Top 40 list, had the list been created in 2015. And the same is true of Pilar del Castillo for her work to end mobile roaming charges. If the list had been 50 rather than 40, then I think Ramon Tremosa and Esteban Pons would also have been on the list.

But Spain should also be aware that the overall quality of the MEPs elected by Spain is lower than say that of Germany.

I would also say that the ongoing lack of a stable permanent government in Spain undermines the influence of the Spanish Prime Minister – Rajoy now, but also whoever it is in future.

My overall impression is that Spanish political parties are not very transparent or accountable. Any measures that could increase this transparency without also creating more deadlock, would be welcome. For example, my sources say the PP membership structure is very opaque, that the executive committee rarely meets and does nothing to hold Rajoy to account. That does not seem to be a sustainable approach and does not inspire the confidence of other Europeans that Spain’s system is functioning and worth listening to.”

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To be read in the presentation of the following event:



¿Influye España en la UE?
encuentro con corresponsales
en Bruselas

MIÉRCOLES 20 JULIO - 20H. - CAFÉ QUARTIER LÉOPOLD (Place LUX)

Con la participación de

Griselda Pastor - Cadena Ser
Enrique Serbeto - Diario ABC
Claudi Pérez - Diario El País

Modera: Ivo Alho Cabral (periodista y miembro de BecUE)

Organizado por la Asociación de becarios y ex becarios españoles en las instituciones de la Unión Europea (BecUE)

