

SUTTON Michelle (CAB-BARROSO)

From:
Sent: Wednesday 12 September 2012 14:54
To: SUTTON Michelle (CAB-BARROSO)
Cc: GRAY Mark Stephen (COMM)
Subject: RE: Commission comment on Catalan (... and so Scottish) independence

Thanks. I assumed so.

-----Original Message-----

From: Michelle.SUTTON@ec.europa.eu [<mailto:Michelle.SUTTON@ec.europa.eu>]
Sent: 12 September 2012 14:28
To:
Cc: Mark-Stephen.GRAY@ec.europa.eu
Subject: RE: Commission comment on Catalan (... and so Scottish) independence

The Commission position remains unchanged, and is as set out in the replies to the European Parliament questions.

Yesterday our Spokeperson received questions which were not about Scotland but about Catalonia, to which the essence of the reply was that the Commission is not competent. The comments were interpreted and elaborated by the Spanish press and since have been transposed by others to the Scottish situation.

Our spokesperson has again clarified this morning on the following line:

"The position of the Commission remains unchanged and has been set out clearly, including in replies to Parliamentary Questions.

In the hypothetical scenario of a part of a European Union MS wishing to leave that MS (and I don't refer to any region in particular), it is first and foremost an internal matter within that MS to define the arrangements.

There are several theoretical scenarios envisageable under international law. The Commission cannot speculate on which choices would be retained: in any case is not our business.

The reference to one scenario in reply to a speculative question yesterday cannot be taken as an indication of any Commission view on which scenario might apply in any hypothetical case.

For the same reason, the Commission is not able to speculate on any potential consequences under EU law."

I hope that this is useful.

Michelle

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 9:44 AM

To: GRAY Mark Stephen (COMM); SUTTON Michelle (CAB-BARROSO)

Subject: Commission comment on Catalan (... and so Scottish) independence

Mark/Michelle

Sure you're frantic with the speech, but have you seen the Guardian piece quoting a Commission spokesman on Catalan independence?

This is a pretty bold statement if correctly quoted. Do you know exactly what was said?

Ta

But a European Union spokesman in Brussels pointed out that, were Catalonia to secede from Spain, it would have to leave the EU and could rejoin only if it met the economic criteria and if other member states voted unanimously in favour of its membership.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/sep/11/catalan-independence-rally-barcelona?INTCMP=SRCH>

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