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## Parliamentary question to the Chairperson-in-Office of the Committee of Ministers

### Parliamentary questions

#### 1. Question from Ms Laura CASTEL, Spain, UEL

In Spain, parliamentary debates on certain issues are censored by the Bureaux of the Senate and the Congress of Deputies and cannot be debated or investigated. This is the case, for instance, with the investigation into the corruption of the monarchy or issues relating to the expenditure of the monarchy and other accountability initiatives. This limits the right to freedom of expression and undermines political representation, as well as the right of citizens to transparency on information of public interest.

Ms Castel, to ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers:

Is he of the opinion that these limitations on human rights are not in accordance with democratic values?"

#### *Reply by the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers*

I recall that parliamentary debates in national parliaments are organised in accordance with the national legislation of Council of Europe member States. It is up to each of the 47 parliaments of the member States to fix its own operational rules in accordance with its own constitution and the relevant international standards.

Any person who considers himself or herself to be a victim of a violation of one of the rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights, including the right to freedom of expression, may lodge an application with the European Court of Human Rights.

