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Declassification of documents concerning the Franco period and the democratic transition in Spain, in particular the coup d'état of 23 February 1981

Reply to Written question[1]: Written question No. 789 (Doc. 15865)
Committee of Ministers

1. In reply to the Honourable Member's question, the Committee of Ministers recalls that Spain ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents (CETS No. 205, Tromsø Convention) on 27 September 2023 and that it came into force in Spain on 1 January 2024. The Tromsø Convention is the first binding international legal instrument to recognise the right to access official documents held by public authorities without discrimination and regardless of the requester's status or motives in seeking access.

2. The Committee was informed that the Government of Spain is currently preparing a draft law on classified information that will replace the Law on Official Secrets of 5 April 1968. It was assured that the new law will be in line with international standards and the possible limitations provided for in Article 3 of the Tromsø Convention.

1. Adopted at the 1491th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (6 March 2024).