

European Rule of Law Mechanism: input from Belgium

2026 Rule of Law Report

The written input from Member States is a key source of information for the annual Rule of Law Report, as clearly set out in the Report's methodology. As every year, the Commission would hereby like to invite the national contact points to provide their input to the 2026 Rule of Law Report. Based on this input, further targeted questions may follow, as it was the case in previous years, to ensure that the Commission has all relevant information from Member States for the preparation of the 2026 Rule of Law Report. Such further targeted input will be sought in particular in the context of country visits or bilateral contacts, as well as during the consultation on the draft country chapters prior to the Report's adoption.

The 2026 Rule of Law Report will continue to assess rule of law related developments under the existing four pillars and will follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations to Member States that were issued as part of the 2025 Rule of Law Report. To facilitate the preparation of input by Member States, this year's questionnaire has been adapted. Member States are asked to provide information about:

- (1) developments and measures taken in relation to the recommendations in the 2025 report,
- (2) developments that are relevant for updating and following up on the assessment of the topics covered in the 2025 country chapter, as well as any other new developments related to the rule of law.

The input under these points should cover any developments since the adoption of the 2025 Rule of Law Report. The annex to this request for input sets out a checklist/guidelines on relevant topics falling within the Report's scope to help Member States prepare their input, building on experience from previous years.

Nature of the contribution

The input should preferably be in English and not exceed 30 pages. Relevant legislation or other documents may be referenced with a link (no need to provide the full text). The contributions will be published on the Commission's website upon explicit consent of the Member States. In order to avoid duplication and excessive administrative burden, please include where applicable explicit references to any relevant contribution already provided by your Member State in a different context (including under Council of Europe, OECD, OSCE and UN bodies or procedures) or to the previous Rule of Law Reports. Contributions should focus on significant developments since the last Rule of Law Report both as regards the legal framework and its implementation in practice.

Type of information to be included

A) Legislative developments

- Newly adopted legislation
- legislative drafts currently discussed in Parliament
- legislative plans envisaged by the Government

B) Policy developments

- Implementation and enforcement of legislation
- evaluations, impact assessment, surveys
- white papers/strategies/actions plans/consultation processes
- follow-up to reports/recommendations of Council of Europe bodies or other international organisations
- important administrative measures
- generalised practices

C) Developments related to the judiciary / independent authorities

- important case law by national courts
- important decision/opinions from independent bodies/authorities
- state of play on terms, nominations and expired mandates for high-level positions (e.g. Supreme Court, Constitutional Court, Council for the Judiciary, Prosecutor General, heads of independent authorities included in the scope of the request for input¹)

D) Any other relevant developments

- National authorities are free to add any further information, which they deem relevant; however, this should be short and to the point.

Please also indicate whether the developments reported are linked to the implementation of reforms and investments under the RRP, where applicable.

Please send us your contribution by **23 January 2026** to the following email address: rule-of-law-network@ec.europa.eu. In case you would have any questions or requests for clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the Commission at the same email address.

Template for input

This template for input indicates the type of contribution sought from Member States for the 2026 Rule of Law Report and provides a suggested format of reply. However, Member States are free to decide on the precise format of their contribution, as long as the key points are covered.

(1) Information on developments and measures taken to implement each of the recommendations addressed to your Member State in the 2025 Rule of Law Report

In the below box, please describe relevant developments and the measures taken with a view to implement the recommendations, following the order of the recommendations as they were addressed to your Member State in the 2025 Rule of Law Report.

Recommendations for Belgium in the 2025 Rule of Law Report:

1. *Continue ongoing efforts to address the structural resource deficiencies in the justice system, taking into account European standards on resources for the justice system.*

In line with the coalition agreement, a draft law will make the remuneration of magistrates in training during their judicial internship more attractive by valorising seniority. The aim is to encourage the influx of new magistrates. In the same draft law, maternity leave will be introduced for magistrates and the possibility of calling upon retired magistrates to work will be extended to magistrates working in the federal public prosecutor's office and the road safety public prosecutor's office. (Link to the draft law: [De Belgische Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers](#)).

The upward trend in the number of magistrates in the judiciary continues.

Change in the number of judges between 2019 and 2025 :

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of active judges	2403	2425	2427	2450	2457	2497	2546
Court of Cassation	43	42	43	42	45	45	43
Courts and tribunals	1444	1463	1469	1494	1507	1511	1544
Public Prosecutor's Office	849	854	851	845	823	859	876

¹ Such as: media regulatory authorities and bodies, national human rights institutions, equality bodies, ombudsman institutions, supreme audit institutions and, where they exist, transparency authorities.

Sentencing courts	67	66	64	69	82	82	83	
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This goes hand in hand with the evolution of personnel appropriations for the judiciary in successive budget laws.

Whereas the personnel appropriations under the Act of December 22, 2020, still amounted to a total of €701,882,000, they have since grown to €917,923,000 (Act of December 19, 2025). This is partly due to the evolution of the index, but also to the integration into the budget of additional resources for judicial personnel, which were allocated during the previous legislative period via an interdepartmental provision.

In 2025, in consultation with representatives of the judiciary, a leverage plan was drawn up with the aim of improving the working conditions and terms of employment of magistrates and court staff. In order to increase the attractiveness of the judiciary, seniority acquired during the judicial internship will be better recognized, legal experience outside the bar will be taken into account to a greater extent, the language allowance for in-depth knowledge of the other language will be increased, and benefits such as a teleworking allowance and meal vouchers will be provided. These guidelines are currently being transposed into legislation. The Leverage Plan also includes immediate measures designed to bring tangible relief at the local level. The interdepartmental provision thus made €21,000,000 available for staffing increases in the judiciary.

And in 2025, in parallel with the announcement of the professional aptitude test and the competition for judicial traineeships, an employer branding campaign was launched to promote the profession of magistrate.

Finally, it should be noted that, following the 2026 budget agreement, additional resources were again earmarked for further and structural investments in the entire judicial and enforcement chain. Particular attention is being paid to the fight against organized crime and serious social and tax fraud. A significant portion of the funds will go towards strengthening the public prosecutor's office and the court, particularly for complex financial, economic, and tax cases. Within this context, the federal public prosecutor's office will be structurally expanded with an independent financial section, led by a deputy federal prosecutor specializing in financial crime.

From 2026 onwards, a total of 377 additional staff members will be recruited to combat social and tax fraud, with maximum coordination between the services involved in order to strengthen the entire chain. For the Ministry of Justice, this concerns 77 FTEs, in addition to the additional reinforcements at the FPS Finance, the Social Inspection, and the Federal Police.

2. *Continue ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency of justice, particularly to reduce the length of proceedings based on comprehensive statistical data.*

Continuous efforts are being undertaken by various actors to reduce lengthy procedural durations. Thus, the establishment of amicable settlement chambers within courts and tribunals dealing with civil, social, and commercial matters has become mandatory as of 1 September 2025, pursuant to the Act of 19 December 2023 containing various provisions in civil and judicial matters (published in the Belgian Official Gazette on 27 December 2023 and entering into force on 6 January 2024). These arrangements contribute to the effort to alleviate the judicial backlog.

These efforts are complemented by legal adjustments aimed at modernising the functioning of the justice system, in particular through the use of digital tools and the organisation of hearings by videoconference (see point 13 of the questionnaire). These developments contribute to a more efficient organisation of proceedings and to improved resource management.

Furthermore, reflections are underway on the gradual strengthening of the autonomy of the judiciary, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, as presented in the sections of the report specifically devoted to this issue (see points 7 and 11 of the questionnaire). These developments are

intended to improve the organisation and efficiency of the functioning of the justice system.

The current Minister of Justice attaches particular importance to reducing the judicial backlog. In 2025, she also fully supports the initiative of the College of Courts and Tribunals concerning the management and reduction of judicial delays and is closely monitoring its implementation². The objective is to successfully complete the first two phases of this initiative—namely, the finalisation of the backlog inventory and the identification of the most urgent problems, both procedural and material—during the first quarter of 2026. In collaboration with professors of judicial law and other relevant stakeholders, the Minister is working tirelessly on the drafting of a preliminary bill containing a series of measures aimed at reducing delays in civil proceedings.

The Belgian Government periodically communicates action plans to the Council of Europe concerning the length of proceedings, under the group of cases *Bell v. Belgium*. These action plans are published on the HUDOC-EXEC website.

3. *Strengthen the integrity framework, including by adopting rules on gifts and benefits for members of Parliament and rules on revolving doors for government and their private offices.*

There have been no developments with regard to strengthening the integrity framework, including the adoption of rules on gifts and benefits for members of Parliament and rules on revolving doors for government and their private offices.

The Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) published two publications assessing steps taken by Belgium to prevent corruption and promote integrity in December 2025. These recent assessments by GRECO provide the most up-to-date evaluation of Belgium's actions over the past year to strengthen its integrity framework in the areas relevant to the recommendation you are addressing. See: [Belgium: Two new assessments from anti-corruption group GRECO - Group of States against Corruption](#)

There are proposals being discussed to increase the transparency of travels undertaken by the House Members (see answer to question n°22)

4. *Complete the legislative reform on lobbying, establishing a framework including a transparency register and a legislative footprint, covering both members of Parliament and Government.*

There have been no developments regarding the completion of the legislative reform on lobbying, including the establishment of a framework with a transparency register and a legislative footprint covering both members of Parliament and the Government.

See also: [Belgium: Two new assessments from anti-corruption group GRECO - Group of States against Corruption](#)

5. *Further continue efforts to strengthen the framework for access to official documents, in particular by improving request and appeal processes, taking into account European standards on access to official documents.*

There have been no developments with regard to strengthening the framework for access to official documents.

6. *Take measures to ensure compliance by public authorities with final rulings of national courts and the European Court of Human Rights.*

² In this regard, reference should be made to the political declaration and the policy note for the year 2025, in which the Minister's commitments in favour of the introduction of the autonomy of the judiciary and the reduction of the processing times of civil judicial proceedings for the current legislative term are set out.

In the context of the execution of the judgment delivered on 18 July 2023 by the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Camara v. Belgium*, the Belgian State has submitted an action plan (updated on 26 June 2025).

In its notes and decisions of 15-17 September 2025, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe noted with interest the measures implemented by the Belgian authorities to address the systemic problem related to the enforcement of court decisions and the positive results that have resulted: a significant decrease in the number of asylum seekers awaiting reception, acceleration of departures from the reception network, and freeing up of reception places.

The Belgian authorities also met on 9 December 2025 with the Judgment Enforcement Service of the European Court of Human Rights to discuss the measures underway or possible to implement the judgment in *Camara v. Belgium*.

During this meeting, the Enforcement Service welcomed the Belgian State's desire to go beyond the execution of the Court's judgment by adopting measures aimed at granting material assistance not only to asylum seekers who have obtained a court decision, but also to all those who are entitled to it. This meeting is part of the intensified dialogue with the Secretariat of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, in line with the recommendations made in its notes and decisions of 15-17 September 2025.

The Belgian State is continuing its efforts to reduce the number of people on the waiting list (4,094 registered in June 2024 compared to 1,653 in January 2026). The number of convictions of the Agency related to the saturation of the reception network has also fallen sharply (3,574 in 2024 compared to 1,740 in 2025). In addition, of the 2,286 provisional measures taken by the European Court of Human Rights against Belgium, only 7 are still active in January 2026.

Finally, the Belgian government's Council of Ministers has approved several legislative changes to reduce the pressure on the reception network. The law of 14.07.2025 has thus come into force limiting the right of reception of asylum seekers who already benefit from international protection in another Member State of the European Union as well as minor children who have submitted an asylum application in their name while the parents' request for protection has already been rejected. The Council of Ministers also validated the law transposing the Reception Directive 2024/1346, as part of the European Migration Pact. The latter should have a positive impact on the reception situation in Belgium.

Furthermore, the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights of 10 July 2020 concerning the contestation of the validation of parliamentary credentials is currently under consideration. Discussions are ongoing at government level on how best to give effect to the judgment. The government seeks to reach a solution in line with the ambition set out in the Government Agreement.

(2) Information on:

a. developments that are relevant for updating and following up on the assessment of the topics covered in the respective country chapter of the 2025 Report, including possible clarifications

- *In the boxes below, describe developments (updates or feedback) related to the topics covered in your country chapter of the 2025 Report (if not already covered under point (1)). You are invited to follow the order of topics as presented in the country chapter and insert direct references to the country chapter text, if convenient; and*

b. any other new developments not already covered under points (1) and (2)a. that you consider relevant

- *The list of topics provided in the Annex can provide guidance for this input.*

I. JUSTICE SYSTEMS

A. *Independence*

1. *Appointment and selection of judges³, prosecutors and court presidents (incl. judicial review)*

A bill to reform the Constitutional Court is currently pending before the Chamber of Representatives. A two-thirds majority is required in both the Chamber and the Senate. The responsible House committee adopted this bill in first reading on 18 November 2025 ([DOC 56-1093/005](#)).

The proposed reforms include the following elements:

- Public hearings: candidate judges, both legal professionals and former politicians, would be heard by the Chamber of Representatives prior to their nomination, with the aim of increasing transparency in the appointment process.
- Qualification requirements: judges appointed from the political branch must hold a Master's degree in law. In addition, the required parliamentary experience is increased to eight years in order to strengthen democratic legitimacy. Experience as a minister or state secretary is taken into account when calculating the required parliamentary experience.
- Language skills: a requirement of functional knowledge of the other national language (Dutch/French) is introduced.

See: [De Belgische Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers](#)

2. *Irremovability of judges; including transfers (incl. as part of judicial map reform), dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors (incl. judicial review)*

No recent developments but the VOW leverage plan I, which is also mentioned above and is currently being prepared, includes provisions to allow some magistrates to work temporarily in another entity in order to ensure continuity of service.

3. *Promotion of judges and prosecutors (incl. judicial review)*

No recent developments.

4. *Allocation of cases in courts*

No recent developments.

5. *Independence (including composition and nomination and dismissal of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary): Information on any next steps foreseen regarding the transfer of budgetary powers for the administration of the justice system from the executive to the judiciary*

In the coalition agreement, the Government reaffirms its intention to transfer budgetary management powers for the administration of the justice system from the executive to the judiciary. Once this transfer is completed, the governing bodies of the three "pillars" of the judiciary (the Entity Cassation for the Court of Cassation, the College of Courts and Tribunals and the College of Public Prosecutors) will be directly responsible for managing staff budgets and policy. According to the coalition agreement, prior to this transfer, the Government will examine ways to improve the framework for the allocation of court staff and magistrates, for example based on regular workload measurements. According to the Government, this increase in managerial autonomy of the judiciary cannot be established without a reform of the evaluation and disciplinary system, which is being discussed. The administration has been mandated by the

³ The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts.

government to begin work in early 2026.

Following a request from the College of Courts and Tribunals, article 182 of the Judicial Code will be amended to broaden eligibility for the positions of president and vice-president. As a result, members of the College will be able to choose a president and vice-president from among all eligible chiefs of corps who are more than five years away from retirement. (Link to the draft law: [De Belgische Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers](#)).

6. Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal/civil (where applicable) liability of judges (incl. judicial review)

The proposals on the evaluation of magistrates that were introduced to Parliament in October 2024 have not been adopted. The coalition agreement provides that both internal and external oversight of the functioning of the judiciary will be strengthened in close cooperation with the High Council of Justice. The evaluation and disciplinary systems applicable to magistrates as well as the associated sanctions will be revised. Discussions on these reforms are currently ongoing.

Following the reform of article 151 of the Constitution on 12 June 2025, which now provides for the evaluation of the chiefs of corps of the sitting magistrature, discussions are also underway on establishing a framework for this evaluation. (Link to the reform of the Constitution: [De Belgische Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers](#)).

The scope of the royal decree of 18 November 2015 on legal aid for magistrates and court staff has been broadened to include candidate magistrates. The royal decree has also been adapted to offer the same guarantees for obtaining legal aid as those applicable to civil servants as amended following the Salduz Act and the Act of 21 November 2016 on certain rights of persons being questioned, including the right to consult and be assisted by a solicitor. (Link to the royal decree: [Belgisch Staatsblad](#)).

7. Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

In the coalition agreement, the Government reaffirms its intention to transfer budgetary management powers for the administration of the justice system from the executive to the judiciary. Once this transfer is completed, the governing bodies of the three “pillars” of the judiciary (the Entity Cassation for the Court of Cassation, the College of Courts and Tribunals and the College of Public Prosecutors) will be directly responsible for managing staff budgets and policy. According to the coalition agreement, prior to this transfer, the Government will examine ways to improve the framework for the allocation of court staff and magistrates, for example based on regular workload measurements. According to the Government, this increase in managerial autonomy of the judiciary cannot be established without a reform of the evaluation and disciplinary system, which is being discussed. The administration has been mandated by the government to begin work in early 2026.

8. Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers

No recent developments.

9. Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary

No recent developments.

B. Quality of justice⁴

⁴ Under this topic, Member States are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under section 2.

10. Accessibility of courts (e.g. court/legal fees, legal aid, language)

No recent developments.

11. Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material⁵), remuneration/bonuses/rewards for judges and prosecutors, including observed changes (significant and targeted increase or decrease over the past year)

See answer above on implementation of the recommendations

12. Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff, clerks/trainees)

No recent developments.

13. Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, including electronic communication and AI tools, within the justice system and with court users, procedural rules, access to judgments online)⁶ + Information on potential measures taken by the government in response to the Court of Audit's recommendations concerning the management of the digitalisation of justice

In the coalition agreement, the Government reaffirms its intention to continue digitalising the Justice system, taking into account the Court of Audit's recommendations and involving all actors of the justice system. Several digitalisation projects are being developed, in particular to give effect to the laws adopted in 2024 (creation of the digital judicial file and central register of judicial files, electronic communication,...) or to continue the development of projects already under ongoing (example: database of judicial decisions).

Videoconference:

The Belgian parliament adopted the law on the organisation of hearings via videoconference in judicial Proceedings (25 April 2024, Official Gazette of the 3rd of June 2024, Moniteur belge (fgov.be)). This law has entered into force on the 1st September 2024.

The law provides a legal basis for the use of videoconferencing in courts, in both civil and criminal proceedings, whilst improving the efficiency of case processing and the accessibility to courts for litigants who, in the absence of such a system, would be obliged to be represented by a lawyer.

Enforcement measures, which are under preparation, are necessary for the implementation of the law. The videoconferencing system is currently under development and is being tested. Access to the videoconferencing system will be made via the Justonweb app.

The principle remains the physical appearance in court. The law enumerates a number of guarantees that the videoconferencing system and hearings through videoconferencing should include in order to safeguard the right to an effective and equal access to the court, the respect of the adversarial character of the proceedings, the equality of arms and the fairness of the proceedings. The use of videoconferencing is, in principle, voluntary. This means that the consent to appear remotely is necessary. This consent is also personal (everyone consents to their own participation). The court may exceptionally impose a prohibition on physical appearance where the judge is satisfied that there is a pandemic emergency or a serious and concrete risk to public order, which prevents the person from being present at the hearing or from being transported safely to the tribunal.

⁵ Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities. Financial resources include salaries of staff in courts and prosecution offices.

⁶ Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, accompanying the Communication on Digitalisation of justice in the European Union, COM(2020) 710 final and Figures 40 to 48 of the 2025 EU Justice Scoreboard, does not need to be repeated.

14. *Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems, including AI-based systems, for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals)*

No recent developments.

15. *Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialisation, in particular specific courts or chambers within courts to deal with fraud and corruption cases.*

At the suggestion of the courts and the tribunals themselves, a series of royal decrees concerning the allocation of cases have been adopted. These decrees regulate the specific distribution of cases among the various divisions of those courts and tribunals, without affecting the access to justice or the quality of services provided to the citizens. By concentrating similar cases in certain sections, the courts and tribunals can better organise themselves and magistrates in these sections can further develop their specialisation, improving overall efficiency. In 2025, four such royal decrees were adopted.

16. *Specialisation (of judges/specific courts/chambers within courts) and training for the judiciary to deal with commercial cases, as well as alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and mediation as regards commercial cases.*

No recent developments.

C. Efficiency of the justice system⁷:

E.g. Measures as regards length of proceedings, to address backlogs, ...

See answer above on implementation of the recommendations

Other – please specify

Chovanec case: the judgment of the indictment chamber of the Court of Appeal of Mons is set for 16 March 2026.

II. ANTI-CORRUPTION FRAMEWORK

A. The institutional framework capacity to fight against corruption (prevention and investigation / prosecution)

17. *List any **changes** as regards relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption and the resources allocated to each of these authorities (the human, financial, legal, and technical/specialised resources as relevant), including the cooperation among domestic and with foreign authorities. Indicate any relevant measures taken to effectively and timely cooperate with OLAF and EPPO. Give details on the set-up of the new financial prosecution service and in particular the exact mandate on corruption cases.*

Creation of the National Financial Prosecution Service: as part of the end-of-year budget agreement, the government agreed on the creation of a public prosecutor's office whose sole purpose would be the fight against economic and financial organised crime but also corruption:

- Discussions are underway on the creation of this public prosecutor's office within the federal prosecutor's office;

⁷ Under this topic, Member States are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under section 2.

- In this context, the OCRC (Central Office for the Suppression of Corruption – police service, cited in the State of Law 2025 report) is strengthened;
- The rest of the criminal justice chain in connection with this specific fight is also strengthened.

18. *Safeguards for the functional independence of the authorities tasked with the prevention and detection of corruption.*

No recent developments.

19. *Information on the implementation of measures foreseen in the strategic anti-corruption framework (if applicable). If available, please provide relevant objectives and indicators.*

No recent developments.

B. Prevention

20. *Measures to enhance integrity in the public sector in particular as regards high-level officials (including as regards incompatibility rules, revolving doors, codes of conduct, ethics)*

The merger of police zones: cited in the 2025 report, this merger was validated by the Council of Ministers at second reading on 23 December 2025 – passage in Parliament will likely be soon;

- A centralisation of all Brussels police officers would make it possible to equalise and systematise the work on integrity within the capital's police force (internal control);
- The same could be said for the voluntary mergers encouraged within the country's other police zones;

The screening of police officers when promoted to a higher rank: this is a proposal that is currently being examined by the Interior Committee:

- The idea is to carry out an additional integrity check when the police officer seeks to reach a higher rank (the only preventive control currently carried out is that of recruitment and selection);
- Reference of the parliamentary proceedings: 54K0401 – [link here](#) .

21. *Measures to enhance general transparency of public decision-making (including rules on lobbying, asset and interest disclosure rules, gifts policy, transparency of political party financing).*

See answer above on implementation of the recommendations

In order to enhance the transparency of travels undertaken by the House Members in the context of their parliamentary mandate at the invitation of a foreign country, a company, a non-governmental organization, etc., two proposals to amend the Code of Deontology of the Members of the House of Representatives are currently being discussed by the House of Representatives:

- proposal [DOC 56-1138/001](#);
- proposal [DOC 56-0699/001](#).

Both proposals stipulate that House Members may only participate, at the expenses of the inviting party, in a foreign journey on the condition that they inform the designated House body in advance and that the journey is disclosed in a public travel register on the House website.

Furthermore, in the context of improving the transparency of the appointment of the judges of the Constitutional Court by the King, on the alternating nomination of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the House of Representatives is presently discussing Government bill [DOC 56-1093/001](#), which provides, amongst others, that for the assembly concerned to make a nomination, it must organize hearings with all candidates (see response question 1). The responsible House committee adopted this bill in first reading on 18 November

2025 ([DOC 56-1093/005](#)).

Lastly, the proposal for a resolution [DOC 56-0873/001](#) 'on combating interference by foreign powers aimed at undermining the democratic rule of law' has been tabled in the House of Representatives. This resolution includes, amongst others, the following recommendations:

- enhancing the transparency of media campaigns during elections;
- strengthening the regulations on lobbying;
- increasing the transparency regarding the financial interests of political mandate holders by disclosing any conflicts of interest.

22. *Measures to prevent conflicts of interest in the public sector. Please specify the features and scope of their application (e.g. categories of officials concerned, types of checks and corrective measures depending on the category of officials concerned).*

No recent developments.

23. *Measures to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption, including their application (i.e. number of reports received, and the follow-up given).*

The government has completed the transposition of EU whistleblowing directive 2019/1937 for the judiciary, the Constitutional Court and the Council of State. While the directive had already been implemented for the private sector and the federal public administration, these judicial bodies were not yet covered. A set of draft laws has now been finalised to extend this whistleblower protection. The bills have been submitted for advisory review and will subsequently be introduced in Parliament.

On March 27, 2025, a law was adopted to establish a whistleblower protection framework for the Belgian Chamber of Representatives and the Senate, based on the 12 legislative areas identified in Directive 2019/1937. The Law of [27 March 2025](#) has been published in the *Belgian Official Gazette* on 28 November 2025 and has entered into force on 8 December 2025. The entry into force of the law has brought into effect Articles 169/1 and 169/2 of the Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives (hereinafter referred to as "[House Rules](#)"), as inserted by the amendment of 13 March 2025 (file [DOC 56-0657](#)), which implements the Law of 27 March 2025. According to House Rule 169/1, point 3, the House of Representatives has posted on its [website](#) the information on the use of the internal reporting channel, as well as clear and easily accessible information regarding the procedures for external reports to the competent authorities.

Under this law, the Federal Ombudsman has been appointed as the external reporting channel for receiving reports. Protection of whistleblowers against retaliation falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the judicial authorities.

Concerning the figures:

- Number of reports received between the 1st of January 2025 and the 31st of December 2025: the Federal Ombudsman opened 766 files that were related to the whistleblowing legislation.
 - o 645 files concerned the law of 28/11/2022 for the private sector. Of these, 613 were reports, 95 of which were deemed admissible and were either investigated by the 4 Federal Ombudsman or forwarded to the competent authorities for follow-up.
 - o 121 files concerned the law of 8/12/2022 for the Federal public sector. Of these, 89 were reports, 9 of which were deemed admissible and resulted in investigations conducted by the Federal Ombudsman.
- The Federal Ombudsman forwarded several reports from both the private sector and the federal public sector to OLAF, as they fall within its remit.
- The areas most affected by reports in the private sector are: Combating social fraud (347), Combating tax fraud (101), Public health (55), Protection of privacy and personal data (21), Consumer protection (17).

- The areas most affected by reports in the Federal public sector are: Non-compliance with laws and procedures (32), Conflicts of interest, favoritism, and bias (22), Abuse of authority (11)
- Number of files received by the competent authorities for the private sector in 2024 (law of 28/11/2022 for the private sector): 1,241 files. These reports led to 901 investigations. Statistics for the year 2025 will be collected in March 2026.
- Protection files opened by the Federal Ombudsman (the Federal Ombudsman is also competent for the protection of reporters in the federal public sector - excl. the police and the intelligence services - and in the private sector): 60.

These figures provide a rough and incomplete overview of reporting in Belgium. They include only the data from the Federal Ombudsman as an external reporting channel for the private sector and the Federal public sector, along with figures from other competent authorities related to the private sector. However, they do not cover other external reporting channels for the federal public sector, such as Comité P and Comité I/R, nor the external reporting channels at regional and community levels.

24. *Specific measures to enhance transparency, integrity and accountability in sectors with high risks of corruption, with a view to monitor and prevent corruption and conflict of interests, and where applicable measures to prevent and address corruption committed by organised crime groups.*

Such high-risk sectors could include: public procurement, including construction, transport/infrastructure, defence, cohesion, agriculture, environment, healthcare, investor residence schemes, large-scale investments of national interest and the spending of EU funds, urban planning. In particular, measures to mitigate high risks of corruption in the area of public procurement, such as enhancing transparency and oversight (for example through digital technologies) and promoting fair competition and accountability in public procurement (e.g. targeted actions to address the high share of single bids) and measures to guarantee the effective and independent functioning of the public procurement review bodies.

No recent developments.

25. *Measures for the prevention of corruption in relation to the issuing of official permits (e.g. related to environment, energy, service provision and various types of construction)*

No recent developments.

C. Repression

26. *The legal framework on the criminalisation and sanctions for corruption and related offences, including foreign bribery*

No recent developments.

27. *Official data on the number of investigations, prosecutions, final judgments, and the application of sanctions for corruption offences (differentiated by offence if possible)⁸. Please indicate whether the cases: involve legal persons; are related to the implementation of EU or national funds⁹; involve high level corruption. Please indicate which data is publicly available and how policy-making is informed by the data.*

⁸ Please include, if available the number of (data since 2022 or latest available data): indictments; first instance convictions, first instance acquittals; final convictions; final acquittals; other outcomes (final) (i.e. excluding convictions and acquittals); cases adjudicated (final); imprisonment / custodial sentences through final convictions; suspended custodial sentences through final convictions; pending cases at the end of the reference year.

⁹ For MS participating in the EPPO, data on cases related to EU funds does not encompass investigations and prosecutions carried out by the EPPO.

No recent developments.

28. *Potential obstacles identified in law or in practice to the investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases (e.g. political immunity regulation, procedural rules, statute of limitations, cross-border cooperation, pardoning),*

No recent developments.

29. *Information on effectiveness of criminal and non-criminal measures and of sanctions (e.g. recovery measures and administrative sanctions) on both public and private offenders.*

No recent developments.

III. MEDIA PLURALISM AND MEDIA FREEDOM

A. *Media authorities and bodies*¹⁰

The Medienrat, as the regulatory authority of the [German-speaking Community](#), has already been further strengthened as part of the budget planning for 2024 and 2025. Since September 2024, the staff of the Medienrat's office is paid directly by the Medienrat. This ensures the independence of the regulatory authority. The measure was also accompanied by a significant increase in the Medienrat's budget.

The staffing plan for the Medienrat's office now provides for 3.5 full-time equivalents. This corresponds to an increase of 250% compared to 2023. This increase was necessary to cope with the short and medium-term increase in tasks resulting from the application of various European legal texts.

For 2026, the allocation to the Medienrat was increased again so that the Medienrat can still employ adequate staff in times of rising wage costs. Compared to 2025, the increase in the allocation is 32%.

[French-speaking Community](#): Regarding enforcement of European Media Freedom Act – “EMFA”, the government approved (2nd lecture) on 19 December 2025 the draft decree implementing the EMFA. The Council of State issued its opinion on 22 December 2025. The government will now analyse the comments made by the Council of State and, if necessary, amend the draft decree accordingly. The decree should then be adopted by the Parliament. The draft decree contains new provisions implementing articles 5, 6 and 22 of the EMFA. The “Conseil supérieur de l’audiovisuel” (CSA) is designated as competent authority for the French-speaking Community in the field of audiovisual media services. It should also be noted that discussions are underway between the federal authority and the federated entities to conclude a cooperation agreement on Article 22 of the regulation.

Regarding the “relationship” between the CSA and the “Conseil de déontologie journalistique” (CDJ), the Council of State has issued a [decision on 15 April 2025](#). In its decision, the Council of State clarified the respective powers of the two bodies.

For the [Flemish Community](#), we refer to our input for the 2025 Rule of Law Report. The Act of 27 March 2009 on Radio and Television Broadcasting (hereafter: [Act of 27 March 2009](#)) contains an extensive chapter on the Flemish Media Regulator (art. 215-235). The appointment and dismissal of the members of the Chambers of the Flemish Media Regulator are regulated in Article 216 of the [Act of 27 March 2009](#). The [Raad voor de Journalistiek](#) is the self-regulatory body for the Flemish press in the Flemish community, of which almost all media outlets are either direct

¹⁰ Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808.

members, or participating via umbrella associations of newspapers and magazines. The Raad voor de Journalistiek is independent and handles complaints from the public. It helps setting ethical standards for journalists by issuing guidelines.

B. *Safeguards against government or political interference and transparency and concentration of media ownership*

For the Flemish Community, we refer to our input for previous Rule of Law Report. The mission of the Flemish Regulator for the Media is to enforce the media regulations within the Flemish Community, settle disputes related to the media regulations and issue media accreditation and licences in accordance with the regulations. One of the tasks of the general chamber of the Flemish Regulator for the Media is to map concentrations in the Flemish media sector (art. 218, §2, 8° of the Act of 27 March 2009).

The autonomy of the Flemish public broadcaster VRT is legally stipulated in article 7 of the Act of 27 March 2009. Furthermore, the editorial independence of VRT is laid down in article 29 of the Act of 27 March 2009. The editorial independence of private audiovisual media is legally stipulated in Article 164 and 169 of the Act of 27 March 2009. The editorial independence of private radio stations is guaranteed in Article 131 of the same Act. The independence of the Board of Directors of the Flemish public broadcaster VRT is ensured, inter alia, by the incompatibilities imposed in Article 12 §2 of the Act of 27 March 2009. The mandate of Director cannot be combined with a political office, neither with a position in a press or media company. To further strengthen the independence of the Board of Directors, it is compulsory for the Flemish public broadcaster VRT to appoint four independent directors (Article 12 §1 of the Act of 27 March 2009).

Financing rules for the Flemish PSB “Vlaamse Radio en Televisie-omroeporganisatie” or “VRT” are part of the Flemish media regulation as referred to under question 37. For the most recent reform/planned change, we refer to the new management agreement with the VRT. The new 2026-2030 management agreement with the public broadcaster VRT will come into effect on 1 January 2026. The Flemish Government approved this management agreement on 18 July 2025. This agreement sets out what is expected of the public broadcaster and what resources it will receive for that purpose. In addition, the Flemish Community refers to its recent contribution to the EU questionnaire regarding the evaluation of the broadcasting communication.

French-speaking Community:

Regarding the revision of the RTBF’s legal framework, the Government concluded on 17 July 2025 an addendum to the management agreement. This addendum provides for a refocusing of public service missions partly to compensate for the non-indexation of public funding carried out as part of the Government's overall economic objective to reduce the debt of the French Community of Belgium. The addendum thus foresees some adaptations, for instance: deletion of a radio channel and a filmed radio channel. In return of non-indexation, it should also be noted that this addendum authorises RTBF to broadcast advertisements during the morning slot (within certain time limits) on its main radio station (“La Première”), which was not the case previously.

Other new developments considered relevant :

- On 28 November 2025, the government approved (2nd reading) a draft decree aimed at reforming local public televisions (“Médias de proximité”). The draft decree is now being submitted to the Council of State for its opinion. According to the government, the two main objectives of the reform are as follows: i) to strengthen the role of local media by offering them a more stable financial and administrative structure that is better suited to current realities and, ii) to promote better governance of local media, by allowing more leeway in the composition of boards of directors, while tightening the governance structure. The text also provides for the abolition of the principle of automatic annual indexation of budgetary

resources allocated to local television as part of the Government's overall economic objective to reduce the debt of the French Community of Belgium.

- On 5 December 2025, a legislation on protection of minors on television was adopted and published in the Official Journal ([link](#)). The purpose of this legislation is to create a system applicable to television media services based in the French-speaking Community by affixing new pictograms indicating age and content to all television programmes.

German Community:

The provisions on transparency and safeguards are all part of the regulation (EU) 2024/1083 of 11 April 2024 establishing a common framework for media services in the internal market and amending Directive 2010/13/EU (European Media Freedom Act - EMFA). The German-speaking Community is currently implementing the EMFA in its media decree. This draft decree is at the moment in its second reading in the government and is expected to be adopted by parliament in the first half of the year.

Compared to the previous year, the funding for the Belgian Radio and Television Centre of the German-speaking Community (BRF) has not been changed. The 2026 budget is therefore the same as the 2025 budget. The government of the German-speaking Community is currently in talks with the BRF about a new management contract. The aim of these talks is to ensure sustainable program planning and the strategic development of the public media offering. This strategic development is to be accompanied by appropriate and reliable long-term funding so that the BRF can fulfil its public service mandate in a contemporary and effective manner.

C. Framework for journalists' protection, transparency and access to documents

30. *Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety, including as regards protection of journalistic sources and communications, referring also, if applicable, to follow-up given to alerts lodged with the Council of Europe's Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists.*

No recent developments.

31. *Law enforcement capacity, including during protests and demonstrations, to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists.*

No recent developments.

32. *Access to information and public documents by public at large and journalists (incl. transparency authorities where they exist, procedures, costs/fees, timeframes, administrative/judicial review of decisions, execution of decisions by public authorities, possible obstacles related to the classification of information).*

Access to information and public documents is governed by the general archival framework. A legislative initiative is underway to introduce a specific archival regime for the Constitutional Court, providing for the transfer of its archives to the State Archives after 30 years, where they will be publicly accessible under the applicable conditions.

33. *Lawsuits (incl. SLAPPs - strategic lawsuits against public participation) and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and measures taken to safeguard against manifestly unfounded and abusive lawsuits.*

Directive (EU) 2024/1069 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on protecting persons who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded claims or abusive court proceedings ('Strategic lawsuits against public participation'), is currently in the process of being transposed into national law. A first draft has already been finalized and presented to a series of stakeholders for advice, including the Belgian anti-SLAPP workgroup, national journalist associations, the High Council of Justice and the Bar associations. The first

draft has been modified on the basis of the received advice and is now submitted for approval at political level. Once approved, the draft law will be submitted to the Belgian Conseil d'Etat for formal advice and then to parliament to be voted. It is still intended to ensure a full transposition by the deadline of 7 May 2026.

IV. OTHER INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES RELATED TO CHECK AND BALANCES

A. *The process for preparing, enacting and implementing laws*

34. *Framework, policy and use of impact assessments and evidence based policy-making, stakeholders¹¹/public consultations (including rules and practices on the transparent participation of civil society to policy development and decision-making processes, and transparency and quality of the legislative process in the preparatory, the parliamentary and implementation phase (including guidance on how to implement legislation).*

Regarding the "regulation impact assessment" to which Government bills are generally subjected prior to their submission to the House of Representatives, we refer to the information covered in the input for the 2021 Rule of Law Report.

Regarding the evidence based policy-making and the stakeholders'/public consultations, since January 2025 hearings with experts, academics, civil society representatives, stakeholders, etc. have continued to be held in the House of Representatives:

- during the period from 1 January 2025¹² until 31 December 2025, hearings were held in 139 out of the 724 public committee meetings (19,20%);
- on aggregated level, during the current 56th parliamentary term¹³, up until 31 December 2025, hearings were held in 182 out of the 923 public committee meetings (19,72%).

Regarding the transparency and quality of the legislative process in the House of Representatives, no significant developments since January 2025 must be reported either:

- during the period from 1 January 2025¹⁴ until 31 December 2025, 45 out of the 122 bills and proposals reported out of committee to the plenary went through a second reading procedure (36,89%), and up to 724 out of the 785 committee meetings were public (92,23%);
- on aggregated level, during the current 56th parliamentary term¹⁵, up until 31 December 2025, 48 out of the 145 bills and proposals reported out of committee to the plenary went through a second reading procedure (33,10%), and up to 923 out of the 1,012 committee meetings were public (91,21%).

35. *Rules and use of fast-track procedures and emergency procedures (for example, the percentage of decisions adopted through emergency/urgent procedure compared to the total number of adopted decisions)*

Regarding the emergency procedures in the House of Representatives, there are no significant

¹¹ This includes also the consultation of social partners.

¹² The period for which the information was collected for the House's input for the 2025 Rule of Law Report was closed on 31 December 2024.

¹³ The 56th parliamentary term started on 4 July 2024.

¹⁴ The period for which the information was collected for the House's input for the 2025 Rule of Law Report was closed on 31 December 2024.

¹⁵ The 56th parliamentary term started on 4 July 2024.

developments since January 2025:

- during the period from 1 January 2025¹⁶ until 31 December 2025, the urgency procedure has been requested for 37 items out of 530 items (6,98%);
- on aggregated level, during the current 56th parliamentary term¹⁷, up until 31 December 2025, the urgency procedure has been used for 54 items out of 1,087 items (4,97%).

36. Safeguards to ensure legal certainty, the stability of the legal framework and non-discrimination.

No recent developments.

37. Rules and application of states of emergency (or analogous regimes), including judicial review and parliamentary oversight.

No recent developments.

38. Regime for constitutional review of laws

No recent developments.

B. Independent authorities

39. Independence, resources, capacity and powers (including effective access to relevant data) of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions¹⁸

The Federal Ombudsman was designated as authority for the protection of fundamental rights within the meaning of Article 77 of the AI Act.

Regarding the independence of the Federal Institute for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (hereafter: FIRM-IFDH), it should be noted that following its B-status accreditation as a National Human Rights Institute in March 2023, significant developments have occurred in 2024. The law of April 21, 2024, has incorporated several recommendations made by the SCA of GANHRI during the accreditation procedure, aligning further the FIRM-IFDH's mandate with the Paris Principles.

FIRM-IFDH's financial resources have continued to grow substantially, reflecting its expanding mandate. The approved budget for 2025 amounts to €4,984,094.75. This consists of an allocated grant of €3,769,000.00, supplemented with €1,215,094.75 carried over from 2023. This includes the budget for the National Prevention Mechanism (NPM). The approved NPM budget within this total budget for 2025 is €993,964.05. This significant budget increase ensure alignment to FIRM-IFDH's broadened competencies.

A major development in 2024 was the establishment of the Preventive Mechanism against torture and inhuman or degrading treatment at the federal level within FIRM-IFDH. On April 21, 2024, Parliament enacted legislation establishing the prevention mechanism within the FIRM-IFDH, in compliance with the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).¹⁹ The mechanism aims to prevent torture and degrading or inhuman treatment, particularly through regular visits to all places of deprivation of liberty under federal jurisdiction. FIRM-IFDH is

¹⁶ The period for which the information was collected for the House's input for the 2025 Rule of Law Report was closed on 31 December 2024.

¹⁷ The 56th parliamentary term started on 4 July 2024.

¹⁸ Cf. the website of the European Court of Auditors: <https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/SupremeAuditInstitutions.aspx#>

executing this mandate in close collaboration with the specialised thematic institutions: Myria for closed centres for foreigners, the Central Supervisory Council for Prisons (CCSP-CTRG), and Committee P for places of detention under police jurisdiction. The law stipulates clearly that the Prevention Mechanism must operate as an independent entity within FIRM-IFDH. The Flemish Government decided that the Flemish Institute for Human Rights (VMRI) would become the competent body for places of deprivation of liberty falling within its remit. This decision still needs to be enshrined in a decree.

FIRM-IFDH has maintained its active role in providing guidance and oversight, publishing 11 advisory opinions, 2 general opinion, and 9 reports in 2025. This demonstrates the Institute's continued commitment to its mandate of promoting and protecting human rights in Belgium.

40. Statistics/reports concerning the follow-up to recommendations by National Human Rights Institutions, ombudsman institutions, equality bodies, and supreme audit institutions in the past year.

Every year, the House Committee for Petitions holds an exchange of views with the federal ombudsmen on the annual report they prepare on their operations, including handling complaints and reports by whistleblowers. On 30 September 2025, an exchange of views was held on the 2024 annual report. The report of that exchange of views (DOC 56-0648/002) can be consulted [here](#).

Furthermore, during the joint meeting of the House Committee on Justice and the House Committee on Home Affairs of 18 November 2025, a hearing was held on the 2024 annual report of the Federal Institute for the protection and promotion of Human Rights with representatives of that Institute. The digital report of that hearing can be consulted on the House website via the following [link](#).

Regarding complaints about the Federal Civil Services, the Federal Ombudsman formulated 14 recommendations in 2025 (1 to Parliament and 13 to Federal civil services). Regarding the "Integrity" investigations, the Federal Ombudsman formulated:

- 19 recommendations in 2024; 13 have been implemented, while 6 are still ongoing.
- 11 recommendations in 2025, all 11 are currently ongoing.

41. Safeguards to ensure the effective independence of supervisory and regulatory authorities with a direct impact on economic operators such as national economic oversight, enforcement and competition authorities

No recent developments.

C. Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

No recent developments.

D. The enabling framework for civil society

42. Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations and human rights defenders (e.g. legal framework and its application in practice incl. registration, transparency and dissolution rules)

No recent developments.

43. Rules and practices having an impact on the effective operation and safety of civil society organisations and human rights defenders. This includes measures to protect them from attacks – verbal, physical or on-line –, intimidation, legal threats incl. SLAPPs, negative narratives or smear campaigns, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc. It also includes measures to monitor threats or attacks and

dedicated support services, as well as available remedies.

As specified above, the SLAPP directive is in the process of being transposed into national law.

44. Organisation of financial support for civil society organisations and human rights defenders (e.g. framework to ensure access to funding, and for financial viability, taxation/incentive/donation systems, measures to ensure a fair distribution of funding)

No recent developments.

E. Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

This can include developments related to initiatives to foster a rule of law culture, please specify which, (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, contributions from civil society, education initiatives, etc.): ...

As already outlined in the input for the 2021 Rule of Law Report, when the "rule of law" is the main topic of parliamentary debates within the House of Representatives, it usually concerns the state of the rule of law in other countries. On 27 February 2025, for instance, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution on the situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo ("DRC") requesting the federal Government to support the DRC in strengthening the political and civil structures that can guarantee the democratic functioning of the public institutions, the independence of the judiciary and the respect for human rights ([DOC 56-0742/004](#)).

However, parliamentary debates on domestic issues related to well-defined aspects of the rule of law have continued to take place regularly within the House of Representatives since January 2025:

- in the autumn of 2025, several oral questions have been put to the Minister of Justice about the 2025 report of the Federal Institute for the protection and promotion of Human Rights on the rule of law and the respect for human rights in Belgium, both in committee ([CRIV 56 COM 238](#)) and in plenary sitting ([CRIV 56 PLEN 068](#));
- several written parliamentary questions have been addressed to the Government on the measures it intends to take to raise public awareness of the importance of the Constitution and human rights in order to foster a rule of law culture, see, for example, the *Bulletin of Questions and Answers* of 10 October 2025 ([QRVA 56 027](#)).

Furthermore, on 18 November 2025, the House Committee on Justice held a hearing on the 2025 report of the Federal Institute for the protection and promotion of Human Rights on the rule of law and the respect for human rights in Belgium with representatives of that Institute. The digital report of that hearing can be consulted on the House website via the following [link](#).

Lastly, on 14 January 2026, the Federal Advisory Committee for European Questions of the House held an exchange of views with Mr. Michael McGrath, European Commissioner for Democracy, Justice and the Rule of Law, on the Belgian Chapter of the 2025 Rule of Law Report. The digital report of this exchange of views can be consulted via the following [link](#).

Cross-pillar elements: cross-border rule of law issues related to the Single Market

If you are aware of any significant challenges concerning the Single Market faced by businesses or citizens from your Member State in a cross-border context relating to any of the four pillars of the report, including for example issues with market access and the conditions for economic activities, please highlight them in the box below.¹⁹

¹⁹ Given the cross-cutting nature of this question, it is included as a separate section in the questionnaire. Information collected under this question will however be integrated under the relevant existing pillar(s) of the Report.

As regards the publication of your written input, please indicate whether you²⁰:

☒ Consent

☐ Do not consent

²⁰ Should you wish to amend the input submitted ahead of the Report's publication, please simply indicate so to the Commission services which will ensure that the correct version is published.