

RULE OF LAW NETWORK

From: Roger Casale <roger@neweuropeans.net>
Sent: lundi 8 mars 2021 22:06
To: RULE OF LAW NETWORK
Subject: Consultation on 2021 Rule of Law Report
Attachments: Contribution631ec0fa-84cf-492d-9624-3d119ff4bb08.pdf

Dear European Commission,

I have found it technically impossible to complete the consultation which is very disappointing.

The survey document was extremely slow and cumbersome and the first question about what kind of organisation we are would not take my entry when I clicked Civil Society Organisation.

I am therefore submitting our responses by email.

THE NEW EUROPEANS Aisbl is a pan-European civil rights organisation based in Brussels.

Our transparency register number is: PIC 907574487

Contact person for the organisation: Roger Casale, roger@neweuropeans.net

Website: <http://www.neweuropeans.net>

Country of origin: Belgium

Please make our submission public.

SUBMISSION

1) European Civic Forum Response

We are active members of the **European Civic Forum** and *fully endorse* all the points raised in their submission particularly in relation to shrinking civic space.

In particular, we support the Civic Forums' recommendation that the Commission take a more comprehensive approach to the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights rather than viewing these issue in isolation.

2) MEDEL- Europe response

We are an active partner organisation of MEDEL-Europe (Magistrats européens pour la Démocratie et la Liberté) and *fully endorse* all the points raised in their submission (see attached).

We are particularly concerned about the treatment of District Judge Monika Frarkowiak.

We interviewed Monika Frakowiak on 15 November 2020 for our Friday Casebook series and would like to submit this as evidence of the political pressure being brought to bear by the Polish

government to undermine judicial independence in Poland.

<https://www.medelnet.eu/index.php/news/europe/696-interview-of-monika-frackowiak-about-the-rule-of-law-breaches-taking-place-in-poland>

3) HUNGARY

In relation to Hungary, we are concerned about the abuse of state aid to undermine media freedom in Hungary and have raised this with Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager in October 2020.

<https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/news/article/eu-investigating-whether-hungarian-state-aid-spending-is-undermining-media-freedom>

We would like to have given a more detailed response but are unable to do so due to the technical issues associated with accessing the survey on the Commission website.

CONFIRMATION

We look forward to receiving confirmation that you have received our submission.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Casale

Roger Casale

Secretary General & CEO

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