

# 2021 Rule of Law Report - targeted stakeholder consultation

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

## Introduction

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The first annual Rule of Law Report was published on 30 September 2020. It is the core of the new European rule of law mechanism, which acts as a preventive tool, deepening multilateral dialogue and joint awareness of rule of law issues.

In the preparation of the first annual Rule of Law Report, the Commission relied on a diversity of relevant sources, including from Member States, country visits, and stakeholders' contributions collected through a targeted stakeholder consultation[1]. The information provided has informed the Member State-specific assessments of the Commission in preparing the Report. Building on the positive experience from the first Rule of Law Report, the Commission is inviting stakeholders to provide written contributions for the preparation of the 2021 Rule of Law Report through this targeted consultation.

The contributions should cover in particular (1) feedback and developments with regard to the points raised in the country chapters of the 2020 Rule of Law Report and (2) any other significant developments since January 2020[2] falling under the 'type of information' outlined in next section. This would also include significant rule of law developments in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic falling under the scope of the four pillars covered by the report.

The input should be short and concise, if possible in English, and summarise information related to one or more of the areas referred to in the template. You are invited to focus on the areas that relate to the scope of work and expertise of your organisation. Existing reports, statements, legislation or other documents may be referenced with a link (no need to provide the full text). Stakeholders are encouraged to make references to any contributions already provided in a different context or to Reports and documents already published.

Contributions should focus on significant developments both as regards the legal framework and its implementation in practice.

Please provide your contribution by 8 March. Should you have any requests for clarifications, you can contact the Commission at the following email address: [rule-of-law-network@ec.europa.eu](mailto:rule-of-law-network@ec.europa.eu).

[1] [https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2020-rule-law-report-targeted-stakeholder-consultation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/2020-rule-law-report-targeted-stakeholder-consultation_en)

[2] Unless the information was already submitted in the consultation for the 2020 Rule of Law Report.

## Type of information

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The topics are structured according to four pillars: I. Justice system; II. Anti-corruption framework; III. Media pluralism; and IV. Other institutional issues related to checks and balances. The replies could include aspects set out below under each pillar. This can include challenges, current work streams, positive developments and best practices:

### Legislative developments

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

### Policy developments

- Implementation 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
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### 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 and nominations for high-level positions (e.g. Supreme Court, Constitutional Court, Council for the Judiciary, heads of independent authorities included in the scope of the request for input[1])

### 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 include, where relevant, information related to measures taken in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic under the relevant topics.

If there are no changes, it is sufficient to indicate this and the information covered in the 2020 Rule of Law Report should not be repeated.

[1] Such as: media regulatory authorities and bodies, national human rights institutions, equality bodies, ombudsman institutions and supreme audit institutions.

## About you

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\* I am giving my contribution as

- Academic/research institution
- Business association
- Civil society organisation/NGO International organisation
- Judicial association or network
- Media organisation or association
- Public authority or network of public authorities Other
- 

If "Other", please specify

\* Organisation name

*250 character(s) maximum*

The Supreme Court of the Slovak republic

\* Main Areas of Work

- Justice System
- Anti-corruption
- Media Pluralism
- Other

If "Other", please specify

\* Please insert an URL towards your organisation's main online presence or describe your organisation briefly:

*500 character(s) maximum*

████████████████████

Transparency register number

Check if your organisation is in the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making

\* Country of origin

Please add the country of origin of your organisation Afghanistan

- Albania
- Algeria
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- Andorra
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Brunei Darussalam
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo
- Costa Rica
- Côte D'Ivoire
- Croatia

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- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Denmark
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Finland France
- Gabon
- Gambia Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy

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- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
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- Kiribati
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger



- Nigeria
- North Korea
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Rwanda
- Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- San Marino
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Slovakia**
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
-  Somalia
-  South Africa
-  South Korea
-  South Sudan
-  Spain
-  Sri Lanka Sudan



- Suriname
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela
- Viet Nam
- Yemen



Zambia  
Zimbabwe

\* First Name

[REDACTED]

\* Surname

[REDACTED]

\* Email Address of the organisation (this information will not be published)

[REDACTED]

\* Publication of your contribution and privacy settings

You can choose whether you wish for your contribution to be published and whether you wish your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

- Anonymous** - Only your type of respondent, country of origin and contribution will be published. Organisation name, URL, transparency register number, first name and surname given above will not be published. **To maintain anonymity, please refrain from mentioning the name of your organisation and any details from which your organisation can be identified in the rest of your contribution.**
- Public** - Your personal details (name, organisation name, transparency register number, country of origin will be published with your contribution.
- No publication** - Your contribution will not be published. Elements of your contribution may be referred to anonymously in documents produced by the Commission based on this consultation.

I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#).

## Questions on horizontal developments

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In this section, you are invited to provide information on general horizontal developments or trends, both positive and negative, covering all or several Member States. In particular, you could mention issues that are common to several Member States, as well as best practices identified in one Member State that could be replicated. Moreover, you could refer to your activities in the area of the four pillars and sub-topics (an overview of all sub-topics can be found below), and, if you represent a Network of national organisations, to the support you might have provided to one of your national members.

Overview topics for contribution [overview topics for contribution.pdf](#)

Please provide any relevant information on horizontal developments here

*5000 character(s) maximum*

## Questions on developments in Member States

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The following four pillars are sub-divided into topics and sub-topics. You are invited to provide concrete information on significant developments, focusing primarily on developments since January 2020, for each of the sub-topics which are relevant for your work. Please feel free to provide a link to and reference relevant legislation/documents. Significant developments can include challenges, positive developments and best practices, covering both legislative developments or implementation and practices (as outlined under “type of information”).

If there are developments you consider relevant under each of the four pillars that are not mentioned in the sub-topics, please add them under the section "other - please specify". Only significant developments should be covered.

Please note that, due to the size of the questionnaire, certain elements may be slow to load, especially if selecting many Member States at once. In such cases, it is recommended to wait a few minutes to let the page load correctly.

### Member States covered in contribution [several choices possible]

Please select all Member States for which you wish to contribute information. For each Member State, a separate template for providing information will open. This may take several minutes to fully load.

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden

## Justice System - Austria

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## Independence

### Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Irremovability of judges, including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

### Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary 3000 *character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

*(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization 3000 character(s) maximum

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Austria

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal and practical resources as relevant) 3000 character(s) maximum

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) 3000

character(s) maximum

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing)

3000 character(s) maximum

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Austria

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### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety *3000 character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000 character(s) maximum

Access to information and public documents  
3000 character(s) maximum

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse  
3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify  
3000 character(s) maximum

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Austria

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### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process 3000 character(s) maximum

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)

3000 character(s) maximum

Regime for constitutional review of laws.  
3000 character(s) maximum

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s) maximum*

*maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Belgium

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### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Belgium

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

#### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) *3000 character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption. *3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000 character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Belgium

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### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000

*character(s) maximum*

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Belgium

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### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process

*3000 character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s)*

*maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Bulgaria

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### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Bulgaria

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption 3000

*character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases (e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Bulgaria

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000 character(s) maximum

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000 character(s) maximum

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000 character(s) maximum

Access to information and public documents  
3000 character(s) maximum

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse  
3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify  
3000 character(s) maximum

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Bulgaria

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### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process 3000 character(s) maximum

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s) maximum*

*maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Croatia

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service  
*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000 character(s) maximum*

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

3000 character(s) maximum

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000 character(s) maximum

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

3000 character(s) maximum

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) 3000 character(s) maximum

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions ("judicial map") and their specialization 3000 character(s) maximum

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Croatia

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant) *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) *3000 character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Croatia

---

### Media authorities and bodies

*(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)*

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Croatia

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### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process *3000 character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic measures
- taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices)

3000 character(s) maximum

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

3000 character(s) maximum

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) 3000 character(s) maximum

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions 3000

character(s) maximum

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) 3000 character(s) maximum

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) 3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

# Justice System - Cyprus

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## Independence

### Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

### Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary 3000 *character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization 3000 character(s) maximum

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Cyprus

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant) 3000 character(s) maximum

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) 3000 character(s) maximum

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing)

3000 character(s) maximum

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Media Pluralism - Cyprus

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### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

3000 character(s) maximum

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000 character(s) maximum

### Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety

3000 character(s) maximum

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Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000  
character(s) maximum

Access to information and public documents  
3000 character(s) maximum

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse  
3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify  
3000 character(s) maximum

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Cyprus

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### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process 3000  
character(s) maximum

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)  
3000 character(s) maximum

Regime for constitutional review of laws.  
3000 character(s) maximum

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19
- pandemic measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices).
- *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Czechia

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### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

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Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

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Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Czechia

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant) *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors)

*3000 character(s) maximum*



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General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

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Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Czechia

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### Media authorities and bodies

*(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)*

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000

*character(s) maximum*

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Czechia

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### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process 3000

*character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s)*

*maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.)

3000 character(s) maximum

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) 3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Justice System - Denmark

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

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

3000 character(s) maximum

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

3000 character(s) maximum

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

3000 character(s) maximum

Allocation of cases in courts

3000 character(s) maximum

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions ("judicial map") and their specialization *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Denmark

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant)

3000 character(s) maximum

## Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) 3000

character(s) maximum

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) 3000 character(s) maximum

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

3000 character(s) maximum

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption 3000

character(s) maximum

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

3000 character(s) maximum

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic 3000

character(s) maximum

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. 3000

character(s) maximum

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

3000 character(s) maximum

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

3000 character(s) maximum

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). 3000

character(s) maximum

Other – please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Media Pluralism - Denmark

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### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

## Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Denmark

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## The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process

*3000 character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Estonia

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

*(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)*

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

3000 character(s) maximum

### Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000 character(s) maximum

### Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

3000 character(s) maximum

### Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) 3000 character(s) maximum

### Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions ("judicial map") and their specialization 3000 character(s) maximum

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

### Length of proceedings

3000 character(s) maximum

### Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Estonia

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant) *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) *3000 character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption. *3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Estonia

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000*  
*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Estonia

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process *3000 character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s) maximum*

*maximum*

### Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Finland

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

### Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

*(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) 3000 character(s) maximum

### Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions ("judicial map") and their specialization 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Finland

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant) *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Finland

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies. 3000 character(s) maximum

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

## Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

3000 character(s) maximum

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000 character(s) maximum

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

character(s) maximum

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists

3000 character(s) maximum

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Finland

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### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), transparency of the legislative process *3000 character(s) maximum*

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).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic measures
- taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices)

3000 character(s) maximum

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

3000 character(s) maximum

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) 3000 character(s) maximum

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions 3000

character(s) maximum

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) 3000 character(s) maximum

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) 3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Justice System - France

---

### Independence

#### Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

#### Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

#### Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

#### Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

#### Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

#### Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

#### Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

#### Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary 3000 *character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

*(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization 3000 character(s) maximum

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Anti-Corruption Framework - France

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant) 3000 character(s) maximum

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) 3000 character(s) maximum

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing)

3000 character(s) maximum

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Media Pluralism - France

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### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

3000 character(s) maximum

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000 character(s) maximum

### Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety

3000 character(s) maximum

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Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000  
character(s) maximum

Access to information and public documents

3000 character(s) maximum

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - France

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process 3000  
character(s) maximum

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)

3000 character(s) maximum

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

3000 character(s) maximum

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s) maximum*

*maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Greece

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

*(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)*

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

*(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Greece

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant) *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption *3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000 character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Greece

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000

*character(s) maximum*

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Greece

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process decisions).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Hungary

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

*(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

*(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)*

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Hungary

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption. 3000

*character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Hungary

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000  
character(s) maximum

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000  
character(s) maximum

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000  
character(s) maximum

Access to information and public documents  
3000 character(s) maximum

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse  
3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify  
3000 character(s) maximum

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Hungary

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms) and transparency and quality of the legislative process  
3000 character(s) maximum

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s)*

*maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Ireland

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service  
*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000 character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Accessibility of courts (e.g. court fees, legal aid, language)  
*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

*(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions ("judicial map") and their specialization 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

*(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)*

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Ireland

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant) *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) *3000 character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption *3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Ireland

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000*  
*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Ireland

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process *3000 character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s) maximum*

*maximum*

### Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Germany

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

### Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

*(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) 3000 character(s) maximum

### Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions ("judicial map") and their specialization 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Germany

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant) *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Germany

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

## Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

3000 character(s) maximum

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000 character(s) maximum

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

character(s) maximum

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists

3000 character(s) maximum

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Germany

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process *3000 character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic measures
- taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices)

3000 character(s) maximum

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

3000 character(s) maximum

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) 3000 character(s) maximum

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions 3000

character(s) maximum

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) 3000 character(s) maximum

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) 3000 character(s) maximum

Other – please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Justice System - Latvia

---

### Independence

#### Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

#### Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

#### Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

#### Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

#### Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

#### Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

#### Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

#### Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary 3000 *character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization 3000 character(s) maximum

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Latvia

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant) 3000 character(s) maximum

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) 3000 character(s) maximum

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing)

3000 character(s) maximum

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Media Pluralism - Latvia

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

3000 character(s) maximum

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000 character(s) maximum

### Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety

3000 character(s) maximum

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Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000  
character(s) maximum

Access to information and public documents  
3000 character(s) maximum

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse  
3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify  
3000 character(s) maximum

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Latvia

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process 3000  
character(s) maximum

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)  
3000 character(s) maximum

Regime for constitutional review of laws.  
3000 character(s) maximum

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s) maximum*

*maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Lithuania

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges, including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

*(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)*

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

*(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Lithuania

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant) *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption. *3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000 character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Lithuania

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies. 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000

*character(s) maximum*

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Lithuania

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms) and transparency and quality of the legislative process 3000

*character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s)*

*maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Italy

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Italy

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption 3000

*character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

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Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Italy

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### Media authorities and bodies

*(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)*

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

3000 character(s) maximum

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000 character(s) maximum

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000 character(s) maximum

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000 character(s) maximum

Access to information and public documents

3000 character(s) maximum

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Italy

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process

3000 character(s) maximum

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s)*

*maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Luxembourg

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges, including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

---

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service  
*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000 character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Accessibility of courts (e.g. court fees, legal aid, language)  
*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Luxembourg

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant). *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) *3000 character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption. *3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and relevant measures taken/envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Luxembourg

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Luxembourg

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### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms) and transparency and quality of the legislative process *3000 character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s) maximum*

*maximum*

### Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Netherlands

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

3000 character(s) maximum

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

3000 character(s) maximum

Allocation of cases in courts

3000 character(s) maximum

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) 3000 character(s) maximum

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges 3000 character(s) maximum

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors 3000

character(s) maximum

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

3000 character(s) maximum

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers 3000

character(s) maximum

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

3000 character(s) maximum

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

### Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions ("judicial map") and their specialization *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

### Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Netherlands

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant). *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) *3000 character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and list the relevant measures taken /envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Netherlands

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies. 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Netherlands

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms) and transparency and quality of the legislative process *3000 character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic measures
- taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices)

3000 character(s) maximum

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

3000 character(s) maximum

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) 3000 character(s) maximum

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions 3000

character(s) maximum

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) 3000 character(s) maximum

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) 3000 character(s) maximum

Other – please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Justice System - Malta

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary 3000 *character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Malta

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant). *3000 character(s) maximum*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors)  
General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption. *3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in a Member State and relevant measures taken/envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other). *3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000 character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Malta

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies. 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000

*character(s) maximum*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Malta

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms) and transparency and quality of the legislative process 3000

*character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s)*

*maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Poland

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Digitalisation (including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

3000 character(s) maximum

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) 3000 character(s) maximum

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions ("judicial map") and their specialization 3000 character(s) maximum

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

### Length of proceedings

3000 character(s) maximum

### Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Poland

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant).

3000 character(s) maximum

## Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption. 3000

*character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and relevant measures taken/envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Poland

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000  
character(s) maximum

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000  
character(s) maximum

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000  
character(s) maximum

Access to information and public documents  
3000 character(s) maximum

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse  
3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify  
3000 character(s) maximum

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Poland

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms) and transparency and quality of the legislative process  
3000 character(s) maximum

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s) maximum*

*maximum*

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Portugal

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### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

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Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service  
*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000 character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Accessibility of courts (e.g. court fees, legal aid, language)  
*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

*(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

*(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)*

Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Portugal

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant). *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) *3000 character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption. *3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and relevant measures taken/envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Portugal

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### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Portugal

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### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms) and transparency and quality of the legislative process *3000 character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s) maximum*

*maximum*

### Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Romania

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

3000 character(s) maximum

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

3000 character(s) maximum

Allocation of cases in courts

3000 character(s) maximum

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) 3000 character(s) maximum

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges 3000 character(s) maximum

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors 3000

character(s) maximum

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

3000 character(s) maximum

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers 3000

character(s) maximum

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

3000 character(s) maximum

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

3000 character(s) maximum

### Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

3000 character(s) maximum

### Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000

character(s) maximum

### Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

3000 character(s) maximum

### Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) 3000 character(s) maximum

### Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions ("judicial map") and their specialization 3000

character(s) maximum

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

### Length of proceedings

3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Romania

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant). *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) *3000 character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and relevant measures taken/envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000 character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Romania

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies. 3000 character(s) maximum

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

3000 character(s) maximum

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000 character(s) maximum

### Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000 character(s) maximum

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000 character(s) maximum

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Romania

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms) and transparency and quality of the legislative process *3000 character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic measures
- taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices)

3000 character(s) maximum

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

3000 character(s) maximum

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) 3000 character(s) maximum

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions 3000 character(s) maximum

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) 3000 character(s) maximum

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) 3000 character(s) maximum

Other – please specify

## Justice System - Slovak Republic

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

3000 character(s) maximum

1. On January 1 2021, the Constitutional Act No. 422/2020 Coll. amending the Constitution of the Slovak Republic No. 420/1992 entered into the force. It has brought following changes: the reform of the composition of **the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic**, which includes: redefined conditions for the appointment of a judge of the Constitutional Court (integrity, moral credit, legal practice), increase the quorum for the election of a candidate for a judge of the Constitutional Court, public voting on candidates for judges of the Constitutional Court. Integrity has so far not been a condition for the appointment of a judge of the Constitutional Court, and it is a legitimate condition for any position of judge. Another requirement is that the life and moral qualities of a candidate for a judge of the Constitutional Court be a guarantee that he will perform his function properly. Regarding the increase in the quorum, in this context MEPs approved an amendment in the parliamentary legislative process, according to which the quorum for the election of candidates for judges of the Constitutional Court is adjusted so that a 3/5 majority of all deputies will be required for election. If the required number of candidates is not elected by this majority, not even in the re-election, in the new election and in the next election that follows, an absolute majority of all Members will suffice.

2. A person who is not a judge may also be the first President of **the Supreme Administrative Court**. However, a candidate for this post should meet the same criteria as a candidate for a constitutional judge.

3. **Election of a Special Prosecutor:** Until recently, only the Prosecutor of the General Prosecutor's Office could become a special prosecutor. Based on the changes effective from September 2020, a citizen of the Slovak Republic who: is eligible for membership of the National Council, has reached the age of 40, has a second-degree university degree in law, has been active in the legal profession for at least 15 years, has a professional judicial examination (whereas a judicial examination is also considered a judicial examination for the purposes of electing a special prosecutor, but not a notarial examination), is innocent, has not held the office of President of the Slovak Republic, Member of the National Council, Member of the European Parliament, Member of the Government, Chairman, Head, Director or Vice-Chairman of another central state or state administration body, State Secretary, Public Defender of Rights, general secretary of the service office, chairman of the self-governing region, or mayor. A new condition is also the requirement that the moral qualities and previous life of the candidate guarantee that he will perform the function of a special prosecutor properly and honestly.

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

3000 character(s) maximum

At its September session in 2020, the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic approved a proposal to dismiss 82 judges who have reached the age of 65 and over. According to the chairman of the council, Ján Mazák, the aim was to remove and rectify the illegal situation. The President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová decided on the proposal of the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic to dismiss 63 judges who have reached the age of 65. After careful consideration and on the basis of objective criteria, the President decided, on a proposal from the Judicial Council, to dismiss another 14 judges who had reached the age of 65.

After discussions in parliament, the Constitutional Act No. 422/2020 Coll. finally introduces a fixed age of 67 years for the termination of the office of judges of general courts, and for judges of the Constitutional Court this limit is set at 72 years. In addition, the decision-making immunity of the judges of the ordinary courts is abolished. There is no reason to maintain the broadly conceived immunity of judges, which also protects them from an arbitrary interpretation of the law bordering on abuse of power. Such regulation is also common in the legal systems of other countries. The immunity of a judge in a decision will only concern the legal opinion expressed in the application of the case, provided that the judge formulates his conclusion on the basis of due consideration of the arguments and explains it properly. In such a case, the judge cannot be held liable, and this is clearly stated in the approved motion. However, the judge should be disciplinary and, in justified cases, also criminally responsible for actions and decisions that are arbitrary, unsubstantiated, ignoring the wording of legislation, case law, etc. In accordance with the program statement of the government, the repeal of the current legal regulation of granting consent by the Constitutional Court to the detention of a judge of the General Court and the Attorney General was incorporated into the proposal and approved. In practice, this will mean that the detention of a judge or prosecutor general will be decided by the court that has jurisdiction over the proceedings and decisions in the preparatory proceedings, i.e. district court or specialized criminal court. An appeal is admissible against the decision to remand in custody, and thus the review of the decision of the court of first instance is also ensured. MEPs also approved an amendment stating that a judge accused of a crime of bending the law will be able to turn to the Judicial Council to assess whether the conditions for prosecuting a judge are met. If the Judicial Council disagrees, the prosecution will not continue. This will only concern the crime of bending the law. It is intended to be a safeguard against the abuse of this crime by the state authorities. This mechanism should be temporary, lasting three years.

#### Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Opinion of the CCJE Bureau at the request of a member of the CCJE representing the Slovak Republic in connection with the reform of the judiciary in the Slovak Republic (Advisory council of European judges): According to the currently effective constitution, a judge may be transferred to another court only with his consent or on the basis of a decision of the disciplinary panel. According to the proposed amendment to the Constitution, this provision is to be supplemented in such a way that the judge's consent to the transfer will not be required when changing the court system, if this is necessary to ensure the proper administration of justice. It should be noted that, in the CCJE Bureau's view, this paragraph on the possibility of transferring a judge without his or her consent cannot be seen and understood in isolation from other principles aimed at setting standards for the non-translatability and consequent independence of judges. For this reason, the implementation of the proposed amendment will be in line with European standards only if the principles of certainty of length of service and non-translatability as key elements of judicial independence are respected. Accordingly, judges should be guaranteed the length of their duties until they reach the mandatory retirement age, if any, the term of office of judges

should be provided by law and the right to redress should be guaranteed. Recommendation CM / Rec (2010) 12 further states: "If judges consider that their independence is at stake, they must be able to apply to a judicial council or other independent body, or they must have effective means of redress available." The most problematic in this context seems to be that the proposed wording of the amendment to the Constitution creates room for judges to be transferred to a lower court without consent when the judicial system is changed. In order to minimize the risk arising from the proposed amendment, precise and clear provisions should also be introduced at legislative level, in which the following should be guaranteed as a minimum: a judge may be transferred only to a court of the same instance, the transfer should not infringe the judge's right to respect for private and family life and that all costs associated with the transfer will be borne by the State.

#### Allocation of cases in courts

According to the Judicial reform (the Constitutional Act No. 422/2020 Coll.) there will be four groups of evenly employed judges (criminal, civil, commercial and family) in the courts. The system of administrative justice will be special. Today, there are many judges with different agendas in different proportions in the courts, which makes comparisons difficult. In conjunction with electronic judicial management, citizens will have a better overview, the governing bodies of the judiciary will be easier to identify and solve problems. Transparency will help increase the credibility of the judiciary. Specialized judges in a smaller number of courts will ensure the efficient handling of cases in their agendas. The new court map will also allow for a truly random allocation of cases.

Data collection to measure the workload of judges has also started. The main objectives of the "Case Weighing" project are aimed at achieving an equal workload for regional and district court judges, as well as increasing the transparency and efficiency of the allocation of human resources and related financial resources for regional and district courts. Unfortunately, the covid crisis has interrupted data collection, but will continue in the spring.

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

The Constitutional Act No. 422/2020 Coll. in the field of justice includes the reform of the composition of the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic in the form of the introduction of a regional principle in the election of its members by judges so as to increase its representativeness; the approved proposal includes a rule according to which the President, the National Council and the Government will nominate only non-judges to the Judicial Council. The intention is to ensure a balance in decision-making for the whole judiciary, but also to provide a real mirror for the judicial environment and to contribute to increasing public control of the judiciary, which is one of the constitutional tasks of the Judicial Council. A regional principle is also introduced for the election of members of the Judicial Council by judges. One member of the Judicial Council will be elected by the judges of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Administrative Court from among themselves, and the other eight members of the Judicial Council will be elected by judges of other general courts in three constituencies with a comparable number of judges.

The Constitutional Act adds a new constitutional competence to the Judicial Council, namely to act in matters of property of a judge. The aim is to eliminate the hitherto undesirable and from the point of view of control of the proper performance of the judiciary legal situation, where the Judicial Council, as a body

of public control of the judiciary, is not entitled to control the origin of property. The Judicial Council will be able to verify the property relations of a judge and also to adopt opinions on judicial competence on the basis of its own proceedings and verification of documents and information requested from state authorities and statements of the person concerned. The Judicial Council thus autonomously decides what documents it needs, what information it requests from which public authorities and evaluates this information itself. Verification of judicial competence, including property relations, may result in disciplinary action. This is to be led by the Supreme Administrative Court, which can impose the most severe sanction on a judge - dismissal from the position of judge.

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

The deputies of the National Council of the Slovak Republic definitively approved an extensive bill on securing property, which was submitted by the Minister of Justice. The aim of the law is to streamline the system of securing property and ensure its administration. The bill also introduces two new facts of criminal offenses, namely the criminal offense of bending the law and the criminal offense of receiving and providing an undue advantage (so-called feeding). The entire material is the fulfillment of the Government's Program Statement in the section Restoring Confidence in the Rule of Law. It was inspired by the German model for the above modification. The essence for committing this criminal offense is that the judge, juror or arbitrator will decide in an arbitrary violation of the law in favor of or against the party to the proceedings in court by arbitrarily exercising the law. In the case of such proceedings, he will be able to be punished by imprisonment for one to five years. However, the seemingly innocent reception and provision of attention, gifts, invitations to cultural or sporting events, sponsorship of celebrations and the like is relatively widespread only because a person holds a job position with important powers. Such conduct contradicts the elementary standards of ethics and morality, but not the law. At the same time, it is clear that such "feeding" of a public official takes place with the prospect that one day he will decide, for example, on the fulfillment of the conditions of competition of minor or greater importance and he will remember these pleasant small attention when deciding. On this occasion, it is also defined what is an undue advantage. This is defined as a performance of a proprietary or non-proprietary nature capable of influencing a public official to which there is no legal claim, the value of which exceeds EUR 200, as well as an unjustified advantage to a public official or a person close to him that cannot be valued in money. There shall be no undue advantage in the case of a supply or advantage the acceptance of which is customary in the light of an official or substantive interest in relation to the position or function of a public official. The Act is effective from 1 January 2021. Deferred effect to 1 August 2021 is proposed in relation to the establishment of a new office for the administration of seized property in order to ensure organizational, personnel, procedural and material readiness of this office for the proposed powers.

The Supreme Administrative Court is also to be established, which will have the status of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic in the field of administrative law and will transfer competences for disciplinary prosecution of judges and prosecutors and, to a certain extent, other legal professions.

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

At its meeting, the government intended to abolish the remuneration of prosecutors and judges as part of economic measures to combat the pandemic situation. The proposal, together with other legislative measures, reduces government spending in places where such a reduction is legitimate and proportionate in order to achieve the goal of greater redistribution of funds to help the most affected groups and businesses, the explanatory memorandum to the government material explains.

The original intention to abolish the remuneration of prosecutors and judges and to abolish the surcharge to compensate for their income and the sickness allowance for prosecutors and judges is not in the approved legislation. According to the deputies, the proposed amendments did not meet the conditions for a shortened legislative procedure and some of them did not appear to be in accordance with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, which was pointed out, for example, by the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic.

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

According to the General Prosecutor of the Slovak Republic, the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Slovak Republic creates a public office from the Public Prosecutor's Office, i.e. it establishes the government's control over its activities. Therefore, it does not rule out that in the next period in the legislative process will re-appear efforts to control the prosecutor's office. He considers the change to be unsystematic and points out that if it were to apply from the new year, special laws concerning the position and competence of the prosecutor's office and prosecutors would come into direct conflict with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

The General Prosecutor of the Slovak Republic also draws attention to the possibility that from January 2021 until the adoption of the new legislation serious doubts would arise about the right of prosecutors to supervise compliance with the law before criminal proceedings and in preparatory proceedings, as well as existing powers of prosecutors in other areas of prosecution. Simply put, there will be chaos as to what powers and in what areas prosecutors have, the opinion added.

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Disciplinary proceedings of lawyers should not become the agenda of the Supreme Administrative Court of the Slovak Republic. A spokeswoman for the Supreme Administrative Court stated that disciplinary proceedings in both stages should thus remain within the competence of the legal self-government, as before, she specified, stating that only the review powers, which the general courts still have, should pass under the Supreme Administrative court of the Slovak Republic.

According to a spokesman for the Ministry of Justice, the preparation of the basic procedural rules for disciplinary proceedings at the Supreme Administrative Court is currently in process. "In general, however, it can be said that, especially with regard to the Supreme administrative Court, we want to address the Venice Commission for an opinion before adjusting the disciplinary proceedings against lawyers." he added.

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary 3000 *character(s) maximum*

The deputies finally approved the draft of a major reform constitutional law in the field of justice, which was presented at a parliamentary session by the Minister of Justice Mária Kolíková. This is a key law with which can open up many painful topics of justice and offer concrete solutions to them. The approved proposal includes, for example, stricter property checks of judges, the introduction of an age census for judges, and the establishment of a Supreme Administrative Court. The legislation is effective from 1 January 2021.

The National Criminal Agency (NAKA) has come up with several arrests since the new government took office. For example: „Monkey”: The former state secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Monika J., who Marián K. was supposed to label in Threema as a "monkey", came to the media's viewfinder and through the media to the public's attention and was supposed to provide him with many things he needed. Monika J. was supposed to confess to some of the acts of which she was accused, but not all of them. „Storm”: Members of the National Criminal Agency detained 13 judges on March 11 last year as part of the Storm. The charges fell on crimes of corruption, interference with the independence of the judiciary and obstruction of justice. They were supposed to have a connection to Marian K. For example, it was the aforementioned Monika J., but also Denisa C. or Zuzana M. „Whirlwind”: The intervention is a continuation of the Storm police operation, in which almost 20 businessmen, lawyers and judges were arrested, including former State Secretary Monika J. At the end of October, the Whirlwind event took place. Elite police officers came to the former vice-president of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic Jarmila U. They also arrested the former vice-president of the District Court Bratislava I Katarína B. They also detained the entrepreneur Zoroslav K. „Weeds”: In September, NAKA shed light on a court in Žilina and arrested its judges due to alleged corruption. In the case of the murder of journalist Ján Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová in February 2018, five people were indicted. On September 3, 2020, a Specialized criminal court ruled in the case of the murder. In the judgment in question, the court sentenced Szaboá to 25 years in prison for his involvement in the murder of a journalist and his fiancée, as well as for the murder of his businessman Petr Molnár. Marián Kočner and Alena Zsuzsová were acquitted by the court because it had not been proven that they had committed the act. It is apparent from the grounds of the judgment in question that the Chamber lacked direct evidence to convict them. In connection with the release of Marián Kočner, the court referred to the principle of *in dubio pro reo*, going hand in hand with the principle of the presumption of innocence, right at the beginning of the reasoning of the statement on release.

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

The specialization of judges in Slovak conditions cannot be carried out without increasing the territory of judicial districts, and thus reducing the number of courts. The reform of court map took into account the adequate physical accessibility of the court for the socially or economically most vulnerable groups in terms of the following criteria: road and rail network, frequency of train or bus traffic, natural barriers, ethnic and dialect regions, natural economic, social and industrial centers, future development of the region, administrative centers, etc.

The electronicization of the judiciary is gradually reducing the need to travel. Already today, a large part of cases is closed without a hearing (exclusively electronic enforcement and reminder proceedings, payment and criminal orders, public announcement of the decision, courts of appeal deal at a minimum).

Oral hearings are a rare event for the participant, and therefore the requirement to get to the court within a few minutes is beyond the demand of an efficient and high-quality hearing. Most citizens do not go to court even once in their lives. Accessibility to a quick and quality decision outweighs the physical availability of the court.

Access to court is a sensitive issue, especially in the family agenda. This was taken into account in the draft court map by the largest possible number of general judicial districts, while respecting the development of the idea of cases and court decisions so that at least three specialized judges can decide on the family agenda.

In order to "bring" the court closer to the citizen, especially in the family agenda, it is more effective to allow the judge to "travel to the citizen", e.g. to bring self-governing or social institutions closer to the citizen's residence (informal environment is also more suitable for this type of agenda).

In addition, new judicial districts are being proposed on the basis of natural catchment and cultural regions and identities. In the long run, the new court map can be expected not only to speed up court proceedings and a functioning mechanism for random selection of judges, but also to improve the quality of court decisions.

An important point in helping people is the planned revision of the Legal Aid Center's legislation, including an evaluation of cooperation with lawyers, to cover a larger group of low-income people who cannot afford access to justice otherwise than at present. At the same time, the government wants to evaluate the need to increase the number of branches of the Legal Aid Center.

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

In the interests of streamlining the judiciary, the government will promote the streamlining of court administration based on the "value for money" principle. The distribution of human and financial resources to the courts must reflect the real needs of the courts, which must be based on detailed analytical input and a thorough audit of the current unsatisfactory situation, taking into account the recommendations of the European Commission for Effective Justice (CEPEJ). It is also of interest to relieve court presidents as much as possible from the burden associated with the administration of courts so that they are fully dedicated to the management of the judiciary.

The government proposes to divide the map of general courts into thirty districts of first instance courts (including two municipal courts in Bratislava and Košice) and three districts of courts of appeal. The seats of the general courts of appeal should be established in the seats of the existing regional courts: in Prešov for the East Slovak District, in Banská Bystrica for the Central Slovak District and in Trnava for the West Slovak District. These are cities with a central location, which guarantees the best accessibility. To resolve the complex business agenda by causal jurisdiction in three general courts of first instance in the seats of the courts of appeal: in Prešov, Banská Bystrica and Trnava. For part of the business agenda (disputes), it proposes to establish a fourth district in the territory of the Bratislava Municipal Court in accordance with the importance of the capital and the scope of the agenda. It proposes one business register in Slovakia (in Žilina).

The government proposes to solve the map of administrative courts separately from the general judiciary in three districts. Due to the use of personnel and material capacities of the abolished regional courts, the proposed seats of the first instance administrative courts are: Nitra, Žilina and Košice. In Bratislava, it proposes to establish the seat of the Supreme Administrative Court of the Slovak Republic with one district for the whole of Slovakia. For the sake of better accessibility, it proposes that administrative courts

have their own boundaries, optimized according to transport accessibility. The Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic and the Specialized Criminal Court will remain unchanged, with a district for the whole of Slovakia. Their registered offices are: Bratislava for the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, Košice for the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic and Pezinok for the Specialized Criminal Court.

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000  
*character(s) maximum*

The current legal regulation of the training of a judicial trainee is being replaced by a new institute, which is a professional judicial internship. The essence of the new regulation is that it allows anyone who meets the conditions laid down by law to undergo training in court, the aim of which is to prepare for a competition for a vacant judge by giving the trainee the opportunity to acquire professional knowledge and practical skills so that, in the event of success in the competition for the vacancy of a judge, he will be able to hold office from the moment he takes up his duties without having to adapt to the new working conditions and procedures. In this context, a professional judicial internship is a paid internship for those interested in the position of judge. The ministry states in the explanatory memorandum to the amendment to the Judges Act, which is part of major legislative changes in the judiciary. A new element in the legal regulation in comparison with the current regulation of judicial trainees is the extension of the selection procedure to include a psychological assessment, which will be performed according to the same rules as in the case of a selection procedure for a vacant judge. The petitioner considers that the incorporation of psychological assessment into the selection process of trainees will contribute to the fact that this institute will be used only by persons whose personality traits create preconditions for proper performance of the function of a judge. explains the ministry. It is proposed that the judicial traineeship lasts only one year. According to the Ministry, given that the trainee will only be a person who already has a professional judicial examination, it is not necessary for the traineeship to last three years as a training of a trainee.

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

*(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

The electronic administration of the judiciary has a significant impact on shortening the length of proceedings and can make a positive contribution to increasing the credibility of the judiciary in the eyes of the public. Electronic communication between courts, especially in areas designed to help entrepreneurs, lags far behind. The Ministry of Justice is currently facing key changes aimed at digitizing the business register or simplifying the entire process of registering companies. Analysts of the Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic positively evaluate the introduction of some electronic services for entrepreneurs, such as electronic delivery, electronic court file or register of clauses. However, they point out that they have still not reached the user-friendly end. According to the Authority, the process of registering end-users of benefits has not been managed and is another example of bad practice in the company's informatization.

A new national project of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic - Centralized system of judicial management has to reduce the time needed to settle cases in civil and commercial disputes by 57 days,

in case of bankruptcies by 300 days, but also to introduce quality management in courts and significantly facilitate the work of judges or court staff. National project with an allocation of 11.8 mil. EUR and lasting 36 months is part of the solution of the e-Justice system and as an agenda information system it includes a whole complex of interconnected services focusing on the courts of the Slovak Republic, the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, but also on the clients of the courts themselves. Thanks to the implementation of the national project, the Ministry of Justice will be able to work better with data and data necessary for the work of judges will be obtained automatically, documentation will be standardized, court quality monitoring based on real data will be introduced, duplication will be removed, higher courts to lower courts. In addition, court decisions will finally be available to other public authorities in the event of subsequent proceedings. The Ministry of Justice will receive systematic monitoring of the work of all 63 courts and 1,200 judges. Digitization will significantly facilitate the work of 3,300 court staff, introduce benchmarking and what is important many data from the new information system will be available in open data.

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

According to the judicial reform there will be four groups of equally burdened judges (criminal, civil, commercial and family). The system of administrative justice will be special. Today, there are many judges with different agendas in different proportions in the courts, which makes the comparison process difficult. In conjunction with electronic judicial management, citizens will have a better overview, the governing bodies of the association will be easier to identify and solve problems. Transparency will help increase the credibility of the judiciary. Specialized judges in a smaller number of courts will ensure the efficient handling of cases in their agendas. The new court map will also allow for a truly random allocation of cases. A smaller number of buildings and, gradually, judges without compromising citizens' rights will gradually lead to savings in the judiciary.

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions ("judicial map") and their specialization *3000 character(s) maximum*

The government of Igor Matovič undertook to turn Slovakia into a "truly rule of law state" capable of ensuring equality before the law and protection of rights. An important part of the concrete effort to meet this commitment is the reform of the court map. The aim of the reform is to increase the credibility, performance and quality of the judiciary, while ensuring better working and decision-making conditions for judges and court staff. One of the basic goals of the new court map is the specialization of judges. The specialization of judges is presumed for criminal, civil, family and commercial agenda in general courts and for administrative agenda in a separate administrative judiciary. In the long run, the new court map can be expected not only to speed up court proceedings and a functioning mechanism for random selection of judges, but also to improve the quality of court decisions. It proposes to divide the map of general courts into thirty districts of first instance courts (including two municipal courts in Bratislava and Košice) and three districts of courts of appeal. The seats of the general courts of appeal should be established in the seats of the existing regional courts: in Prešov for the East Slovak District, in Banská Bystrica for the Central Slovak District and in Trnava for the West Slovak District. These are cities with a central location, which guarantees the best accessibility. It proposes to resolve the complex business agenda by causal jurisdiction in three general courts of first instance in the seats of the courts of appeal: in Prešov, Banská Bystrica and Trnava. For part of the business agenda (disputes), it proposes to establish a fourth district in the territory of the Bratislava Municipal Court in accordance with the importance of

the capital and the scope of the agenda. It proposes one business register in Slovakia (in Žilina). It proposes to address the map of administrative courts separately from the general judiciary in three districts. Due to the use of personnel and material capacities of the abolished regional courts, the proposed seats of the first instance administrative courts are: Nitra, Žilina and Košice. In Bratislava, it proposes to establish the seat of the Supreme Administrative Court of the Slovak Republic with one district for the whole of Slovakia. For the sake of better accessibility, it proposes that administrative courts have their own boundaries, optimized according to transport accessibility. The Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic and the Specialized Criminal Court will remain unchanged, with a district for the whole of Slovakia. Their registered offices are: Bratislava for the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, Košice for the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic and Pezinok for the Specialized Criminal Court.

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

### Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

One of the basic goals of the new court map is the specialization of judges. The specialization of judges will allow more complex cases to be completed more quickly. Courts have no problem handling a number of simpler and routine things in real time. The real problem is more complex things, which take an unreasonably long time to complete. Citizens and businesses see this as low law enforcement. The current network of 54 district courts does not make it possible to meet the condition that three specialized judges be employed in the court, which is necessary for the random allocation of files to work. In small courts, a judge has to deal with several areas, which can put him at a disadvantage with narrowly specialized lawyers and litigants. The same applies to the occupancy of the chambers of the eight regional courts. The new court map also takes into account the long-term trend of declining cases coming to court. Specialized judges in a smaller number of courts will ensure the efficient handling of cases in their agendas. The new court map will also allow for a truly random allocation of cases. A smaller number of buildings and, gradually, judges without compromising citizens' rights will gradually lead to savings in the judiciary.

Specialization of judges will allow more complex cases to be completed more quickly. For at least the last five years, the courts have seen a steady decline in the number of cases that come to court, especially on the civilian agenda. At the same time, the district and regional courts handle more cases in total than they receive in a given year, as a result of which they gradually manage to reduce the backlog of cases accumulated in the past, as well as those that have not been handled for more than a year (restraint cases). In Slovakia, there are courts that in some efficiency indicators exceed the average of the top 15 EU countries, but also courts that lag significantly behind. The solution cannot be an increasing number of judges, but the creation of sufficiently large, professional and efficient workplaces with specialized judges and employees, who will subsequently shorten disproportionately long proceedings, even more complex cases. Simpler cases will be efficiently handled or helped by court clerks. In the long run, the effect of the proposed concept of a new court map will be reflected in the shortening of proceedings.

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Slovak Republic

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant). *3000 character(s) maximum*

The new Office for the administration of seized property is created thanks to the approval of the law on seizure of property, which the Ministry of Justice, led by Mária Kolíková, enforced in 2020 ( Act No. 312/2020 Coll.). This is an important regulation for the effective fight against corruption. The law is effective from 1 January and also provides for the establishment of a new Office for the administration of seized property, which is to start operating on 1 August 2021.

On 30 January 2019, the National Council of the Slovak Republic approved Act No. 54/2019 Coll. on Protection of Persons Reporting on Anti-social Activities and amending certain laws. The bill was approved by the government and submitted to the National Council of the Slovak Republic on the basis of the Government's Program Statement for 2018 to 2020 (part 5. Strengthen the role of the state and protection of the public interest, chapter Anti-corruption policy) and following the implementation of measures from the Action Plan for Strengthening the Slovak Republic as a Rule of Law state. The most significant change compared to the previous legislation is the establishment of the Office for the Protection of Persons Reporting on Anti-Social Activities as an independent body that provides protection to notifiers under this Act and also decides on applications for remuneration for qualified notification. The establishment of the Office was brought about by the Act on the Protection of Persons reporting on Anti-Social Activities, which entered into force on 1 March 2019. The institution should be an independent state administration body. It is also intended to raise awareness about the provision of protection to whistleblowers and to provide remuneration to whistleblowers. It is to submit a report on its activities to the National Council of the Slovak Republic once a year. The office based in Bratislava was formally established by law in 2019, but does not exist in the real world. Only the election of the first chair represents the first step on the road to creating a real and functioning office that protects the rights and legitimate interests of whistleblowers when reporting on anti-social activities at national level. On Tuesday, July 7, 2020, the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic obtained an international certificate of anti-corruption activities in accordance with the STN ISO 37001: 2019 standard, thus becoming a leader in state administration in creating conditions for the fight against corruption. The STN ISO 37001: 2019 standard specifies criteria for achieving higher efficiency and effectiveness in the prevention of corruption and unfair activities in the public as well as in the private sector.

## Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

The phenomenon called "revolving doors" may be perceived by citizens as an unauthorized use of information, relationships or any other benefit derived from previous employment. In some cases, it may appear that public officials make decisions not in the public interest, but in the interest of the former or future employer. Such conduct reduces confidence in the public service and in the system of integrity in the public service. The main areas of employment problems before and after inclusion in the public service are those where public officials: looking for future employment outside the public service, lobby back in favor of state institutions, after the end of the public service they move between the public sector and the private sector, carrying out the same nature of activity, use classified or other sensitive information while employed in the public service, for example, they perform the same nature of tasks as they did in the private or non-profit sector.

There are several examples of measures that can be taken to manage the shift between the position in the public sector and the private sector. **Pre - employment measures** in the public service: develop clear rules and procedures to get rid of private sector public interests, prevent private sector employees, or lobbyists and contractors for the public sector or those negotiating public sector contracts on behalf of companies, from filling a public sector job, strengthen retirement rules and procedures to prevent the impact of former private sector employment on employees once they start working in the public service. **Measures following employment in the public service:** legally prohibit public officials from using classified or other sensitive information after leaving the public service, to promote the period of so-called "Cooling down"; public officials leaving the public service may not lobby or engage in formal negotiations or communicate with their former subordinates or colleagues in the public service. Some countries introduced compensation during the "cooling down" period, public officials should be prohibited from switching from one side to the other and representing their new employer in proceedings concerning a dispute for which they were responsible before leaving the public service. Shifting between public and private positions can be mutually beneficial, but it must be regulated to avoid not only real but also apparent conflicts of interest. Areas of potential conflict of interest may include future employment in a public sector company, improper use of influence after leaving the public service, and disclosure of classified and / or sensitive information.

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Igor Matovič's cabinet announces in its program that it will adopt a law on lobbying, which will be a combination of legal regulation, a mandatory register of lobbyists and a code. The lobbying law has appeared several times in parliament. It failed to be enforced. At the same time, despite the high level of corruption and public distrust in the state and its institutions, Slovakia is one of the few EU countries that does not have legislation balancing the legitimate interests of different groups and the public interest. The Government of the Slovak Republic will also introduce a special register for lobbyists with information on the matters in which they plan to lobby, as well as information on their clients, costs and remuneration for the lobbyist's activities. The Government of the Slovak Republic will take measures to resolve conflicts of interest and the so-called revolving door practices that pose a risk to fairness and impartiality in decision-making. The problematic area was the guidelines on the prevention of conflicts

of interest and acceptance of gifts, as well as abuse of office. Slovakia was to adopt a code of conduct for members of the National Council, together with a supervisory mechanism and sanctions for non-compliance. The authorities argued that the draft code did not reach parliament for last year's parliamentary elections. However, during the new parliamentary term, they want to explore options. Slovakia has a problem with the supervision and enforcement of the rules on conflicts of interest and property declarations. Although the constitutional law on the protection of the public interest has been adopted, the group also encourages a revision of the mandate of the Committee for the Incompatibility of the Functions of the National Council.

According to the Council of Europe, Slovakia's response to shortcomings in the implementation of anti-corruption measures in parliament, the judiciary and the prosecutor's office is a disappointment. The most problematic areas concern Members' activities, including their contact with lobbyists and the acceptance of donations. Apart from Slovakia, only Serbia and Turkey are not complying with the recommendations. For the fourth time, the Council of Europe has assessed the state of corruption prevention against Members, judges and prosecutors. The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the Council of Europe's anti-corruption monitoring body, presented 16 recommendations to the Slovak Republic in its evaluation report. As many as eight of them were not fulfilled by about October last year.

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

According to the recommendations of international institutions and experience from other countries, the Government of the Slovak Republic will establish an independent institution that will be in charge of the ethics of public officials, conflicts of interest and control of property declarations. This institution will act as a control, analytical and methodological department, will provide binding methodological guidelines, analyzes, organize training on the ethics of public officials, present examples of good practice and submit an annual report on the state of ethics of public officials, which will be discussed in the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The Government of the Slovak Republic will introduce a functional mechanism of material responsibility and punishment of mistakes of public officials in the management of public funds.

Slovakia urgently needs to strengthen its civil service capabilities and focus on building a professional, educated and stable workforce through fair, transparent and rule-based management procedures. Transparency and ethics are essential elements of a professional and independent state administration. The Government of the Slovak Republic will increase the transparency of selection procedures and introduce a uniform selection process. The Government of the Slovak Republic will introduce clear rules on integrity and ethics and a functional mechanism for controlling and managing conflicts of interest. The Government of the Slovak Republic will adopt a long-term strategic plan for human resources in the civil service. It will introduce long-term planning of tenders and publication of the tender plan several months in advance. A central human resources body should be established to manage personnel processes, which would have an overview of the structure of employees, short-term and long-term needs in the state administration. The Government of the Slovak Republic will establish a state personnel agency at the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic in order to make the selection procedures more transparent and professional.

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption. 3000  
*character(s) maximum*

The most significant change is the transfer of competencies from the labor inspection authorities to the new Office for the Protection of Persons reporting on Anti-Social Activities. This independent state administration body with nationwide competence will provide protection to whistleblowers, control compliance with the law, provide expert opinions and advice on the application of the law, provide education in providing protection, provide remuneration to whistleblowers or submit a report on its activities to the National Council of the Slovak Republic. If Act no. 307/2014 Coll. granted protection to whistleblowers only if the reported facts significantly contributed to the clarification of the unfair practice, the degree of contribution is no longer assessed when granting protection under the new legislation (Act No. 54/2019 Coll). Also, extending the definition of serious anti-social activity to criminal offenses of legal persons and lowering the fine for reported administrative offenses from € 50,000 to € 30,000 widens the range of persons who can be granted protection. The new law, like its predecessor, provides for the protection of applicants for reporting unfair practices inside the employer, as well as providing qualified notifications to the prosecutor or the competent administrative authority. In both cases, legal protection will be provided by a new whistleblower protection office. In the first case, it is possible to provide protection by suspending the effectiveness of a negative employment act committed by the employer against the notifier as a retaliatory act for the reported unfair practice. The notifier has a new 15 days to request the newly created office to suspend the effectiveness of such an employment act. The suspension was extended to 30 days by the new legislation. During this period, the notifier may apply to the court for an urgent measure. The person responsible for the actions within the internal system for verifying notifications, or the person who published the facts about the anti-social activity, can now also request the suspension of the employment act. This person is protected by law if the disclosure was justified by a reasonable presumption that making the notification would not lead to a proper investigation or could lead to sanctioning of the notifying person. In the case of filing a qualified report of a serious anti-social activity, the employer may perform an employment act against the protected whistleblower, to which he did not give consent only with the consent of the Office, otherwise it is invalid. In the approval of this legal act, the employer continues to play a decisive role, who must prove that there is no causal link between the employment act and the qualified notification. The length of the protection provided has also undergone a significant change. While protection has so far expired at the end of criminal or administrative tort proceedings, it will expire three years after the end of these proceedings.

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and relevant measures taken/envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

According to the Council of Europe, Slovakia's response to shortcomings in the implementation of anti-corruption measures in parliament, the judiciary and the prosecutor's office is a disappointment. The most problematic for Slovakia are still three areas that concern members of the National Council. The first are the standards for members of parliament in their dealings with lobbyists or other persons who want to influence public policy. Although a draft code of ethics was being prepared in parliament, even the new government failed to adopt it. However, the coalition led by Igor Matovič identified measures in this area as one of the priorities of its program statement. It was to be a combination of legislation, a mandatory register of lobbyists and a code of conduct. Nevertheless, GRECO states that to date, no new legislative proposals have been provided on the transparency of the legislative process and guidelines for Members in their dealings with lobbyists. The second problematic area was the guidelines on the prevention of

conflicts of interest and acceptance of gifts, as well as abuse of office. Slovakia was to adopt a code of conduct for members of the National Council, together with a mechanism for supervision and sanctions for non-compliance. Thirdly, Slovakia has a problem with the supervision and enforcement of the rules on conflicts of interest and property declarations. Although the constitutional law on the protection of the public interest has been adopted, the group also encourages a revision of the mandate of the Committee for the Incompatibility of the Functions of the National Council. In addition to the three most problematic areas, GRECO also talks about six questions that Slovakia still does not satisfactorily fulfill. They concern the rules on the acceptance of gifts and other benefits for MEPs, their acknowledgment of financial relations and sponsors. In the field of justice, these are more precise rules in the principles of judicial ethics, or the acceptance of gifts and the obligation to declare obligations, i.e. own debts or loans. In relation to the prosecutor's office, the recommendations on property declarations of prosecutors have only been partially complied with, and GRECO is particularly concerned about the fact that prosecutors do not disclose the value of their assets in such a way that their public control is possible. The obligations of prosecutors to declare their debts and loans, as well as donations above a certain value, are also insufficiently resolved. The gift limit above 6,600 euros seems too high to the group.

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic 3000

*character(s) maximum*

The government is aware that corruption is a serious social and economic problem that affects both the quality of life of citizens and the quality of business environment. The government will eliminate the scope for corrupt practices in all areas of public policy administration, where the property of the state, public institutions and local governments is handled, during implementation public procurement, the provision of state subsidies and the provision of financial contributions from European Union funds. It will support this effort by computerizing the process of these activities. The government will ensure the consistent application of electronic public instruments procurement in order to increase transparency, simplify processes, reduce corruption and support for small and medium-sized enterprises. The government's goal is to continue to support use of the Electronic Contracting System used in public procurement contracts, to support the centralization of public procurement applied in practice in order to reduce administrative burden on the subjects of the public procurement process, streamlining of control processes and ensuring competition during the duration of contracts with an emphasis on efficiency and economy. Following the approved Strategic Plan for the Fight against Corruption in the Slovak Republic the government aims to continue a coordinated, conceptual solution and implementation preventive measures to reduce the level of corruption and increase transparency throughout society. National anti-corruption policy will also be strengthened, with an emphasis on preventing corruption of foreign public officials in international business transactions.

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

By the Act No. 312/2020 Coll. on Seizure of Property, which entered into force January 1,2021 in accordance with international standards resulting from the obligations of the Slovak Republic in this area, the Government of the Slovak Republic will ensure effective search, seizure and seizure of proceeds

of crime and the introduction of clear and effective rules for the administration and disposal of seized property. Particular emphasis is placed on the prevention of purposeful transfers of illegally acquired property in order to frustrate the execution of property penalties imposed in criminal proceedings. contrary to obligations, which may, however, be motivated to act in breach of obligations. In this context, the government will also consider the introduction of the crime of bending the law, modeled on the German legislation.

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Investment and Informatization is successfully advancing in the fight against corrupt behavior in the implementation of European Union funds. The proof is the key project of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the management of risks associated with fraud and corruption in Eurofunds, which is the result of more than a year of intensive international cooperation with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Cooperation on the project began with the signing of a Declaration on Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption and Fraud. This activity is one of the points of the Action Plan to Enhance Transparency and Simplify the Use of Eurofunds ("Action Plan"). The OECD expert team conducted five fact-finding missions and one expert workshop since 2019. At the meeting, the Deputy Secretary-General of the OECD Jeffrey Schlagenhauf appreciated the existing approach of our country, which is in line with the requirements of the European Union. The main output of the international cooperation project is a national strategy linked to an action plan to further improve the risk management processes associated with fraud in the use of Eurofunds. Based on feedback from ministries, civil society representatives and beneficiaries, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is continuously reviewing, improving and expanding the processes and procedures established by the Action Plan. It also includes 12 other measures that can further improve the whole ecosystem. Among the most important are the need for more effective communication between the authorities responsible for managing Eurofunds and law enforcement, the establishment of a special working group to share information between entities, the continuation of codes of conduct, the need to create an analytical environment to investigate emerging irregularities, audit findings, but also fraud. The electronic process has also helped to simplify these steps, as it is no longer a problem to submit an application or any other submission electronically. The main partners of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the management of risks related to fraud and corruption in Eurofunds were, in addition to managing and intermediate bodies, control bodies in Slovakia (Public Procurement Office, Supreme Audit Office, Certification Body from the Ministry of Finance) and the Office of the Government in Slovakia.

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases (e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Minister of Justice Mária Kolíková (For the People) wants to remove the provision on judicial decision-making immunity from the constitution, but does not want to punish them for their legal opinion. It also wants to abolish the need for the Constitutional Court's consent to the prosecution of judges. A judge is not punishable for his legal opinion," the minister assures. However, if a judge decides arbitrarily and against logic, law and case law, should be able to be punished. In connection with the abolition of

decision-making immunity, Kolíková recalls that there is clearly a disciplinary offense of arbitrariness, and this will now be supplemented by a new factual nature of the crime of bending the law. At the same time, Kolíková reminded that the decision on detention itself can also be reviewed by an appeal in the court of higher instance, which, in her opinion, is a sufficient guarantee for a judge as well. The legislative intentions are part of a package to reform and cleanse the judiciary. In addition to the above-mentioned changes, the Minister plans to change the Constitutional Court, the Judicial Council, establish the Supreme Administrative Court and change the method of reviewing the property of judges. In view of these indications, it is therefore not surprising that the new government undertook in its Program Statement (in order to restore confidence in the rule of law and to purify the judiciary) to consider the introduction of the crime of bending law, inspired by the German model. According to this model, judges should be prosecuted in cases where they would bend the right in favor or to the detriment of one of the parties to the dispute. At its session on 26 August 2020, the Government approved a bill on the enforcement of decisions on seizure of property and administration of seized property, through which, among other things, it amends the Criminal Code and introduces the factual nature of the crime of abuse of rights. An offense, an associate judge or a judge of an arbitral tribunal may commit an offense of abuse of rights. If one of them, according to the proposed wording, arbitrarily exercises the law in the decision-making process and thereby harms or benefits another, he is punished by imprisonment for one to five years. The proposed wording is intended to provide protection of the administration of justice, the interest in the proper application of legal norms and respect for the principle of legal certainty. On January 1, 2021 the Constitutional Act No. 422/2020 Coll. Aiming at reforming the judiciary entered into force.

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Slovak Republic

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### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies. *3000 character(s) maximum*

The amendment to the Digital Broadcasting Act releases some limits for broadcasters. The media environment has recently experienced rapid development, to which the New European Rules for the Regulation of Media and Video Sharing Platforms and their Impact on Regulation, which have been developed by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic for conditions in the Slovak Republic, are responding. On 18 December 2018, the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive entered into force, bringing several changes to the media environment, mainly affecting television broadcasters, on-demand audiovisual media service providers (e.g. Netflix, Voyo) and, for the first time, video-sharing platforms (such as Youtube) and video content on social networks (such as Facebook). Slovakia is obliged to implement the new directive into national legislation by 19 September 2020.

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

The Broadcasting and Retransmission Council is an administrative body that exercises state regulation in the field of radio and television broadcasting, retransmission and the provision of on-demand audiovisual media services. While electing the new candidates, there was no problem with the choice. Members will be able to choose from a record number of candidates. This might be due to the new process of personnel change of the Council reflected in the amendment to the law, which MEPs approved. MEPs chose from 20 candidates. It elected Israel and Začková for a six-year term from December 17. Cocher will take office on January 14, 2021, and will serve there for six years. Jakubčová will hold office from his election until January 26, 2025.

Cocher works as the manager of the company, she was nominated for the position by the Advertising Council. Israel is the head of the Department of Journalism at the Faculty of Arts of the Catholic University in Ružomberok, nominated by Lucia Drábiková. Jakubčová works as a lawyer, she was nominated by Anna Zemanová. Začková is a reporter for the Slovak Radio and Television, nominated for the position by the Society for Sustainable Living.

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

The important thing is the emphasis on the creation and functioning of self-regulatory bodies in the media environment, which could potentially take on some other competencies. Ethical self-regulation is proving to be the best and most effective mechanism for monitoring compliance with ethical and professional standards in several similar sectors (such as advertising) and is the best response to the occasional ideas of deputies dreaming of state press boards or other similar public bodies to control media content. Given that we have a complicated debate on how to combat fake news and misinformation, which will inevitably lead to a conflict between necessary regulation and freedom of expression, effective and widely accepted self-regulatory bodies are needed more than reputable salt.

## Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

The largest recipient of state advertising is JoJ television and its sister channels. Since 2011, the state has paid them almost 39 million euro for advertising, which is more than a third of the total volume of state advertising. Transparency recalls that JoJ TV, as well as its subsidiaries, is owned through a series of Cypriot companies by J&T financiers led by Patrik Tkáč. JoJ explains the volume of a large amount of state advertising on its screens by the fact that it has 100% signal coverage throughout the country and is also the most watched television in the so-called universal target group. Compared to JoJ, Marquis earns significantly less from state advertising. A total of 22 million euro since 2011, which is only 56 percent of the volume for the JoJ group for the same period. In third place in the broadcast of state advertising is the news television TA3 with 16 million euro.

Most of the state broadcasts are broadcast by Fun Rádio, which for years has belonged to the businessman and chairman of the We Are Family movement, Boris Kollár. Over the past 9 years, Fun Radio has received € 5.7 million in advertising contracts from the state. The state has poured record money into the

media for advertising. Government officials signed advertising contracts worth 20.8 million euro. That's more than seven of the eight full calendar years of this decade. If the traditionally strong December is repeated, in which contracts for the next year are signed, 2019 will be a new record of the volume of state advertising entered. According to the analysis of advertising contracts with a volume of at least 5 thousand euro from the central register of contracts, which was done at Transparency International, the state has signed a total of 760 advertising contracts with 107 million euro with them since 2011 (the state also buys through media agencies, but did not more than a percentage of directly purchased advertising). Three quarters of this volume was Eurofund-funded advertising. Advertising contracts are exempt from public procurement. In other words, contracts are not awarded in an open competition. On the contrary, officials choose who to address. For example, the Ministry of Transport directly chose TA3 for the summer advertisement "Holidays in Slovakia - summer campaign" for 120 thousand euro, because as ministry spokeswoman said that TA3 has the highest share of viewers with a net income of more than a thousand euro and attracts 3, 5 million viewers. The target group we wanted to reach was managers.

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information

*3000 character(s) maximum*

„Lex Hascak“: In response to several controversial practices of financial groups in Slovakia in the media sector, the PS / Spolu submitted to the Parliament a law on special measures to prevent disproportionate concentration of ownership and to organize conflicts of interest in the media market. This law consists of two basic measures. The first is the new obligation to register the final owners of the media in the register of public sector partners. The law thus brings a very important change, and that is a much stronger naming of the media space than the public space. Such a philosophy of the media space is of particular importance, especially in the context of the digitization and globalization of the information market, and is the basis for the necessary future regulations. Thanks to such legislation, we will be able to easily identify the real ultimate media owners who today circumvent the existing ban on media cross-ownership and hide behind a complex network of companies and businesses. The second measure allows the state to initiate proceedings against the media owner over a certain turnover per year if it also trades with the state. The purpose of such proceedings is to determine whether internal decision-making mechanisms, powers, contracts and management practices allow the end-user of the benefits to intervene in the media. If the owner sufficiently proves that such interference does not occur and cannot occur, the state will stop the proceedings, otherwise it may impose extremely high fines. Given the positive experience so far with the register of public sector partners, the first measure would put Slovakia at the forefront of legislation aimed at transparency of media ownership, as it is a potentially more effective measure, as known by Austrian legislation based on the media's obligation to disclose ownership and decision-making. and management structures, and is currently considered to be the most advanced in Europe. The presented law, lex Haščák, which, after significant modifications compared to the original intention, seeks to prevent unhealthy media concentration, but especially to introduce transparency and ethics into media relations and management, was also created thanks to the above-mentioned efforts of the Penta financial group. And the very discussion of his measures and philosophy brings into the public debate very important topics that we should start talking about as soon as possible if we want our laws and institutions to be able to reflect the media reality of the 21st century.

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Firstly, Minister of Culture announced that she was preparing constitutional and legal changes for the protection of journalists. The novelty contains three essential points. First, journalists should have a constitutionally guaranteed protection of resources. Second, journalists are to be exempt from criminal liability for the crime of defamation. Finally, but not least, citizens will have a significantly curtailed opportunity to bring successful civil lawsuits to protect their personalities when journalists write lies about them or damage their reputation. Secondly, MEPs have adopted a non-legislative resolution on the protection of investigative journalists in Europe in response to the murder of Slovak journalist Jan Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kušnírová. The resolution was supported by 573 of the 647 voting legislators, 27 were against and 47 abstentions. The resolution is based on the findings of a special delegation of six MEPs representing the various political groups of the institution and visiting Slovakia on their working trip.

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

News in storing classified information: There is also an amendment to Act No. 215/2004 Coll. on the protection of classified information. The changes will affect the safekeeping of documents containing such information, which their originators will be able to store in the central repository of classified information until the time of declassification. The repository shall be established by the National Security Office. This will help reduce the administrative burden on public authorities. The National Security Office will also be responsible for issuing opinions on registry regulations in the event that they regulate the handling of classified information. The Ministry of the Interior and the state archives will have to take these opinions into account.

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Minister of Culture announced that she was preparing constitutional and legal changes for the protection of journalists. The novelty contains three essential points. First, journalists should have a constitutionally guaranteed protection of resources. Second, journalists are to be exempt from criminal liability for the crime of defamation. Finally, but not least, citizens will have a significantly curtailed opportunity to bring successful civil lawsuits to protect their personalities when journalists write lies about them or damage their reputation and reputation.

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Slovak Republic

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### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms) and transparency and quality of the legislative process *3000 character(s) maximum*

Since the implementation of the project, the Ministry promises to fulfill the main program of the reform - specialization of judges; improving the quality of decisions; faster and more predictable court decisions in the long run. The bonus is to reduce the risk of corruption in the judiciary, according to the draft law on settlements and districts, which is the exact title of the paragraph wording of the draft new court map, which the ministry submitted for comment in mid-December 2020. According to the personal reactions of the judges, they were perhaps most outraged by the minister's statement that the new court map was going to abolish the trampled corruption sidewalks. Judge Novotná considers corruption to be a failure of individuals, not a systemic error, and should be treated as such. According to them, this change will not solve what really worries the Slovak courts the most - their overload, law enforcement or insufficient staffing. Bratislava judges agree that the structure of courts in the capital is satisfactory. If Minister Kolíková is concerned with the fact that the courts specialize and that there are at least three judges on them for criminal, civil, commercial and family matters, then this applies in Bratislava. If such thing cannot be achieved in other smaller circuits, then reconstruction may make sense. Although the Judicial Council supported the proposal with comments, one of its members representing the judges criticized it. He confirmed that the proposal was created at the ministry without discussion behind closed doors, without the participation of judges, the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic, lawyers, prosecutors and local government representatives. Together with the vice-president of the Regional Court in Bratislava, it was proposed to rework it. A mass expression of opposition to the new court map was the publication of an open letter of 320 judges, which represents a quarter of the court staff in Slovakia. They suggested that the current bill be withdrawn from the legislative process and that an amendment to the draft court map be prepared with the participation of judges and expert discussion. The minister still declares that she wants to discuss with the judges, but at least those we spoke to do not feel anything like that. The next step is to extend the comment procedure on the new court map by a month, until the end of February 2021.

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Year 2020: number of all approved laws: 125, approved government drafts of laws: 95, deputies: 30, approved in abbreviated legislative proceedings: 59.

As of June 2020, the parliament has adopted 36 government bills in an abbreviated legislative procedure for the previous eight sessions. President Zuzana Čaputová did not return a single law to the Chamber of Deputies for renegotiation. Following the end of the corona virus pandemic, according to MEPs, the submission of government bills in an abbreviated legislative procedure should be omitted, unless necessary. The Act on the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament states that in exceptional circumstances, when fundamental human rights and freedoms or security may be endangered or the state is threatened with considerable economic damage, the National Council may decide on a shortened legislative

procedure on the bill. In practice, this meant that after the laws were approved by the government and delivered to parliament, they were finally approved the next day. In a report on the state of the Slovak Republic in early June, President Zuzana Čaputová said in parliament that it would be difficult to accept laws in the accelerated legislative process if there was no legal reason for them. In summary proceedings, they also adopted legislation regulating the grounds for dismissal of the Commissioner for Children and the Commissioner for People with Disabilities. The President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová did not sign this amendment due to the failure to fulfill the reasons for the shortened legislative procedure.

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

On 30 January 2019, the Constitutional Court issued its most significant finding to date PL. ÚS 21/2014. In deciding on a socially sensitive and publicly monitored matter concerning security checks of judges and candidates for appointment as judges, the Constitutional Court first had to deal with the question of whether the Constitution of the Slovak Republic contains an implicit material core and whether the Constitutional Court is entitled to declare the incompatibility of the norms of the Constitutional Act with the implicit material core of the Constitution. After carrying out a detailed legal analysis taking into account the relevant case law of the constitutional courts of traditional European democracies, the Constitutional Court concluded that: The Constitution of the Slovak Republic contains an implicit material core, while the basis of this implicit material core of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic is the principles of democratic and rule of law state, including the principle of separation of powers and related independence of the judiciary. The implicit material core of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic cannot be contradicted even by constitutional laws. The Constitutional Court is entitled to examine a possible conflict of the norms of the Constitutional Act with the implicit material core of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and if it finds a discrepancy, it is entitled to state the inconsistency of the norms of the Constitutional Act with the implicit material core of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic. Subsequently, the Constitutional Court proceeded with its own constitutional review of the challenged constitutional and legal regulation and stated, among other things, that the Constitutional Court respects the effort to increase the quality of judges, which as such it does not perceive as interfering with the material core of the constitution. Interference with the material core of the constitution occurs only if, in an effort to improve the quality of judges, one of the principles of a democratic and rule of law state is violated.

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s)*

*maximum*

The Government's resolution on declaring a state of emergency is in accordance with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and the Constitutional Act on State Security in Time of War, State of War, State of Emergency and State of Emergency. The Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic decided on Wednesday. After assessing the case, the Constitutional Court accepted the reason for declaring a state of emergency and confirmed that it was declared for the entire territory of the Slovak Republic. The

Constitutional Court stated that the government had not declared a state of emergency without having a basic rational support point for fulfilling the conditions. According to the court, the government also met the formal conditions. The declaration of a state of emergency was challenged at the Constitutional court by a group of opposition deputies, as well as by the General Prosecutor's Office (GP) of the Slovak Republic. According to the opposition, the government resolution was in conflict with the constitutional law, due to the absence of conditions and the imminent threat to life and health of individuals. The GP of the Slovak Republic also objected to the related government regulation for the implementation of certain measures of economic mobilization. At closed session of the plenary, the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic ruled that the challenged government resolution on declaring a state of emergency and the government regulation are in accordance with the reference articles of the constitution and the constitutional law on state security. Defender of Rights addressed the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic in connection with the violation of fundamental rights and freedoms during a pandemic. This is especially the issue of deprivation of personal liberty in the form of quarantine or isolation, insufficient legal and judicial protection against interference with fundamental rights and freedoms, the issue of so-called Invoices for state quarantine as well as the problem of vague and too broad competencies of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic during a pandemic. The Constitutional Court rejected complaints about state quarantine. The complainants did not exhaust all effective remedies to protect their fundamental rights. The Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic has so far rejected 19 constitutional complaints concerning the obligatory state quarantine, which in April was determined by the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic for people coming from abroad. According to the Constitutional Court, the non-use of the legal possibility to file an administrative action cannot be replaced by a constitutional complaint.

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Based on the number of complaints / suggestions from citizens, the Public Defender of Rights turned to the Chief Hygienist and asked him to rectify the possible violation of fundamental rights during the implementation of the mandatory state quarantine. She drew attention to the risk that the placement of persons in the state quarantine could lead to infection of originally healthy persons, in direct causal connection with the actions of state authorities. It considered the implementation of the restriction, accompanied by an interference with human dignity or even degrading treatment, to be disproportionate, and such an intervention is not acceptable in a democratic society, even in such a difficult situation as the one of the Slovak Republic in connection with a pandemic. At the same time, she proposed to the Chief Hygienist the general obligation to replace quarantine in a state facility either by a voluntary possibility to undergo quarantine in a state facility, or by a strictly controlled domestic quarantine, or by imposing an obligation to perform quarantine in a state facility only in justified cases. She also called for protection against the disease in state facilities and information.

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Judgment of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic PL. ÚS 22/2020 of 14 October 2020:

The Attorney General and a group of deputies objected to non-compliance with procedural standards in adopting the contested government resolution (absence of reasons for declaring a state of emergency, lack of written evidence to justify the state of emergency), vague delimitation of the area covered by the state of emergency and indefinite definition of the state of emergency. The Constitutional Court declared that its role in this proceeding is, in principle, to assess only the basic rationality of the broader factual basis and to determine whether it is a manifestly inappropriate reaction of the executive. He emphasized that a state of emergency could only be declared on the basis of statutory reasons, and the assessment of whether these reasons arose and whether they required a state of emergency depends on expert, conceptual and ultimately political discretion, as the government is in favor of assessing the circumstances of declaration of a state of emergency and is democratically accountable. Regarding the observance of procedural standards, the Constitutional Court stated that the Constitutional Act on State Security does not provide for an explicit order that the reason for declaring a state of emergency be explicitly stated in the resolution. On the other hand, however, the Constitutional Court states that in such an act of the government, in the interest of legal certainty, it is desirable that the text of the government resolution should state at least a brief reason for declaring a state of emergency. The proposal to declare a state of emergency was submitted to the government by the Prime Minister orally, which, according to the Constitutional Court, does not preclude the legal order. The Constitutional Court states that a declaration of a state of emergency would be more convincing if a written submission report were available containing at least a general grasp of the reasons for its declaration.

As for the definition of the territory in which the state of emergency was to apply with the words in the affected territory of the Slovak Republic, the Constitutional Court considered this wording to be clear and enforceable, assessing it in the context of other measures taken by the government at that time. However, he added that the contested government resolution could, in view of the seriousness of the state of emergency, contain a more rigorous linguistic definition of the affected or directly endangered area in order to avoid unnecessary doubts. The government has also met the formal conditions for declaring a state of emergency (legality). The Constitutional Court declared that the government's resolution on the proposal to declare a state of emergency is in accordance with the Constitution and the Constitutional Act on State Security.

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000 character(s) maximum*

The Ministry of Justice proposes to introduce new coercive measures as an incentive for those who ignore the court's decision and do not fulfill the imposed obligation regarding non-monetary benefits. The measure could also help in the future cases or in cases of buildings that were supposed to be removed by a court decision and are still standing. Such ignoring of a court decision can result in a new fine of up to € 30,000, or he will lose his driver's license, or they will block and prevent him from using his belongings. In the program statement, the government has committed itself to improving access to justice by focusing specifically on improving the enforcement of claims. The Ministry of Justice plans to submit a bill to interdepartmental comments, the aim of which is to streamline and speed up the enforcement of claims

in execution proceedings conducted mainly to satisfy the rights to non-monetary benefits. To this end, it proposes to introduce new enforcement measures that the bailiff will be able to use in the enforcement proceedings in order to enforce the obligation imposed. The draft law envisages the introduction of three basic coercive measures: a fine, the withholding of a driver's license and the use of technical means to prevent the use of things. The choice of measure will be at the discretion of the executor. However, the law stipulates that it should be proportionate to the obligation enforced and also that measures cannot be imposed side by side. The possibility of imposing a fine is recognized by law even today. However, it turned out that its height was not motivating. It will therefore be possible to impose a fine of up to € 30,000 as a coercive measure. For a legal entity, it proposes a fine of up to 10% of its turnover for the previous accounting period. It should also be possible to impose a coercive measure on a legal person on the members of its statutory body. According to the proposal, the detention of a driving license and the use of technical means to prevent the use of a thing should last for a maximum of six months. If the obligation for non-compliance with which these coercive measures were used is fulfilled, the executor must immediately ensure that the coercive measure is no longer enforced. The executor will cancel the enforcement of measure even if it did not lead to the fulfillment of the obligation. However, the revocation of a coercive measure shall not prevent the imposition of another coercive measure or the imposition of the same coercive measure to a different extent.

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Non-profit organizations will receive more than 1 million euro in support from the state. The Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic has allocated more than 1 million euro to support non-profit organizations. The support should help non-profit organizations to cover the increased costs they had and will have during the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. This is a one-off measure. These organizations helped people and often replaced the role of the state during a pandemic. They often fought in the front line, where others did not want to. Therefore, they deserve our support to refinance these activities, said Minister of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization. Non-profit volunteers fought in the front line. They helped the isolated, the elderly and the settlements. We will try to get financial assistance out as soon as possible. In addition to financial assistance, we want to promote systemic measures for nonprofits and NGOs has not spoken positively in the past, we also want to change this, added the minister.

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

The government of Igor Matovič undertook to turn Slovakia into a truly rule of law state capable of ensuring equality before the law and protection of rights. An important part of the concrete effort to meet this commitment is the reform of the court map. The aim of the reform is to increase the credibility, performance and quality of the judiciary, while ensuring better working and decision-making conditions for judges and court staff. In order to restore confidence in the rule of law and to clean up the judiciary, the Ministry of Justice has drafted a constitutional law in the field of justice. The constitutional law will

e.g. include the reform of the composition of the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic, the review of the property of all judges, the reform of the composition of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, the natural replacement of judges by introducing an age ceiling for judges or the establishment of the Supreme Administrative Court legal profession. The reform of the judicial map will be one of the tools for specializing judges on the main agendas, as well as for breaking the corrupt links in the judiciary. This measure will also include strict specialization in the family law agenda. In addition, the ministry has introduced a new, transparent system for determining the number of vacancies for judges in the courts. Thus, the current practice of allocating vacant judicial positions only on the basis of personal meetings of the presidents of regional courts with the management of the ministry and the strength of their arguments ends. The members of the Judicial Council nominated by the government and parliament have changed, as the previous members of the Judicial Council have resigned on behalf of the government and parliament in agreement with the Minister of Justice. After several unsuccessful attempts, JUDr. Ján Šíkuta was elected as for the new President of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic. The staffing situation has also strengthened. The President appointed 25 new judges. The ministry, led by Mária Kolíková, is also systematically taking steps to cleanse the judiciary of those suspected of embezzling their mission. Several disciplinary motions for judges were filed, complaints were filed with the Slovak Bar Association. And further proposals are being prepared to initiate disciplinary proceedings against notaries and bailiffs.

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Slovenia

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### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

3000 character(s) maximum

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary)

3000 character(s) maximum

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges 3000 character(s) maximum

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors 3000

character(s) maximum

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

3000 character(s) maximum

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers 3000

character(s) maximum

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary 3000 character(s) maximum

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

3000 character(s) maximum

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

3000 character(s) maximum

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff)

3000 character(s) maximum

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)

3000 character(s) maximum

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) 3000 character(s) maximum

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions ("judicial map") and their specialization 3000 character(s) maximum

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

Length of proceedings

3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Slovenia

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and relevant measures taken/envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Slovenia

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies. *3000*  
*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies *3000 character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Slovenia

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### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms) and transparency and quality of the legislative process

*3000 character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) *3000 character(s) maximum*

*maximum*

### Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Spain

---

### Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception that the general public has of the independence of the judiciary *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

### Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

*(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) 3000 character(s) maximum

### Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions ("judicial map") and their specialization 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

### Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Spain

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant). *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and relevant measures taken/envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Spain

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits against journalists (incl. defamation)

3000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

3000 character(s) maximum

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Spain

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### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms) and transparency and quality of the legislative process 3000 character(s) maximum

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)

3000 character(s) maximum

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

3000 character(s) maximum

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- measures taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices) 3000 character(s)

maximum

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Justice System - Sweden

---

## Independence

### Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents

*(The reference to 'judges' concerns judges at all level and types of courts as well as judges at constitutional courts)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Irremovability of judges; including transfers, dismissal and retirement regime of judges, court presidents and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Promotion of judges and prosecutors

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Allocation of cases in courts

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Independence (including composition and nomination of its members), and powers of the body tasked with safeguarding the independence of the judiciary (e.g. Council for the Judiciary) *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Accountability of judges and prosecutors, including disciplinary regime and bodies and ethical rules, judicial immunity and criminal liability of judges *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Remuneration/bonuses for judges and prosecutors *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

### Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Independence of the Bar (chamber/association of lawyers) and of lawyers 3000

*character(s) maximum*

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Quality of justice

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

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

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

Material resources refer e.g. to court buildings and other facilities.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff) 3000

*character(s) maximum*

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, particularly electronic communication tools, within the justice system and with court users, including resilience of justice systems in COVID-19 pandemic)

*(Factual information presented in Commission Staff Working Document of 2 December 2020, SWD(2020) 540 final, does not need to be repeated)*

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals) 3000 *character(s) maximum*

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions ("judicial map") and their specialization 3000

*character(s) maximum*

## Efficiency of the justice system

(Under this topic, you are not required to give statistical information but should provide input on the type of information outlined under "type of information".)

### Length of proceedings

*3000 character(s) maximum*

### Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Anti-Corruption Framework - Sweden

---

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

List of relevant authorities (e.g. national agencies, bodies) in charge of prevention detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption. Please indicate the resources allocated to these (the human, financial, legal, and practical resources as relevant). *3000 character(s) maximum*

### Prevention

Integrity framework including incompatibility rules (e.g.: revolving doors) *3000 character(s) maximum*

General transparency of public decision-making (including public access to information such as lobbying, asset disclosure rules and transparency of political party financing) *3000 character(s) maximum*

Rules on preventing conflict of interests in the public sector.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

List the sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State and relevant measures taken/envisaged for preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors. (e.g. public procurement, healthcare, other).

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Measures taken to address corruption risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector. *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

## Repressive measures

Criminalisation of corruption and related offences.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Data on investigation and application of sanctions for corruption offences (including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards the implementation of EU funds

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution of high-level and complex corruption cases(e.g. political immunity regulation). *3000*

*character(s) maximum*

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Media Pluralism - Sweden

---

### Media authorities and bodies

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

Independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources of media regulatory authorities and bodies. 3000 character(s) maximum

Conditions and procedures for the appointment and dismissal of the head / members of the collegiate body of media regulatory authorities and bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies 3000 character(s) maximum

### Transparency of media ownership and government interference

The transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter); other safeguards against state / political interference

3000 character(s) maximum

Rules governing transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information 3000 character(s) maximum

### Framework for journalists' protection

Rules and practices guaranteeing journalist's independence and safety 3000

character(s) maximum

Law enforcement capacity to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Access to information and public documents

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Lawsuits and convictions against journalists (incl. defamation cases) and safeguards against abuse

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Other - please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

## Other institutional issues related to checks and balances - Sweden

---

### The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments, stakeholders'/public consultations (particularly consultation of judiciary on judicial reforms) and transparency and quality of the legislative process *3000 character(s) maximum*

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)

*3000 character(s) maximum*

Regime for constitutional review of laws.

*3000 character(s) maximum*

COVID-19: provide update on significant developments with regard to emergency regimes in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

- judicial review (including constitutional review) of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic
- oversight by Parliament of emergency regimes and measures in the context of COVID-19 pandemic measures
- taken to ensure the continued activity of Parliament (including possible best practices)

3000 character(s) maximum

## Independent authorities

Independence, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions ('NHRIs'), of ombudsman institutions if different from NHRIs, of equality bodies if different from NHRIs and of supreme audit institutions

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

3000 character(s) maximum

## Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and judicial review (incl. scope, suspensive effect) 3000 character(s) maximum

Implementation by the public administration and State institutions of final court decisions 3000 character(s) maximum

## The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding the framework for civil society organisations (e.g. access to funding, registration rules, measures capable of affecting the public perception of civil society organisations, etc.) 3000 character(s) maximum

## Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (e.g. debates in national parliaments on the rule of law, public information campaigns on rule of law issues, etc.) 3000 character(s) maximum

Other – please specify

*3000 character(s) maximum*

