

2026 Rule of Law Report - targeted stakeholder consultation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The annual Rule of Law Report lies at the centre of the Annual Rule of Law Cycle, which acts as a preventive tool, deepening multilateral dialogue and joint awareness of rule of law issues. So far, six editions of the Rule of Law Report have been published since 2020.

As every year, the Commission would like to invite the stakeholders to provide contributions to the 2026 Rule of Law Report. On the basis of these contributions and on-going developments, further targeted questions may be shared at a later stage of preparation of the 2026 Rule of Law Report, in particular in the context of country visits, or bilateral contacts.

The Commission invites stakeholders to provide contributions which include:

(1) developments and measures taken in relation to the recommendations in the 2025 report,
(2) developments related to topics covered in the 2025 country chapters, as well as any other new developments related to the rule of law.

The input should consist of a short summary, if possible in English, covering the areas referred to below. Legislation or other documents may be referenced with a link. Contributions should focus on significant developments since the last Rule of Law Report both as regards the legal framework and its implementation in practice.

This questionnaire also integrates the separate questionnaire on the single market from last year. In addition to these specific questions, respondents to the questionnaire are invited to consider the Single Market dimension, including any relevant cross-border issues, in all their answers.

Where questions of particular relevance under the single market dimension, this is indicated before the relevant question.

[1] Unless the information was already submitted in the input for the previous Rule of Law Reports.

Type of information to be included:

Under each of the four pillars, the replies should include references to the following types of information:

A) Legislative developments

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

B) Policy developments

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

C) Developments related to the judiciary / independent authorities

- important case law by national courts
- important decision/opinions from independent bodies/authorities
- state of play on terms, nominations and expired mandates for high-level positions (e.g. Supreme Court, Constitutional Court, Council for the Judiciary, Prosecutor General, heads of independent authorities included in the scope of the request for input[2])

D) Any other relevant developments

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

Where relevant, please also indicate whether the developments reported are linked to the implementation of reforms and investments under the national Recovery Resilience Plan. To simplify your answers to the questionnaire, if there are no developments, it is sufficient to indicate this and the information covered in the contributions for the previous Rule of Law Reports does not need not be repeated.

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

* 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

* Organisation name

250 character(s) maximum

Main Areas of Work

- ☒ Justice System
- ☐ Anti-corruption
- ☐ Media Pluralism and Freedom
- ☐ Checks and Balances
- ☐ Other

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 indicate the country of origin of your organisation

- ☐ 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
- ☐ Other - please specify

First name

Surname



Email Address of the organisation



* 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 as we will not be able to guarantee anonymisation of these elements.**
- ☐ 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.

[Specific privacy statement targeted stakeholder consultation 2026 rule of law report.pdf](#)

Questions on horizontal developments

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

[List of topics for contribution.docx](#)

Please provide any relevant information on horizontal developments here

5000 character(s) maximum

Questions for contribution

Under each pillar, you are invited to provide information on measures taken to implement the recommendations addressed to the Member State in the 2025 Rule of Law report, as well as developments with regard to the points raised in the respective country chapter of the 2025 Rule of Law Report and any other significant developments since January 2025 and up to the date of submission[3]. Please always include a link to and reference relevant legislation/documents (in the national language and/or where available, in English). **Significant developments** can include challenges, positive developments and best practices, covering both legislative developments or implementation and practices.

Information provided in reply to the first question under each pillar, related to the follow-up to the recommendations, does not need to be repeated in subsequent parts of the questionnaire, but can be cross-referenced in the subsequent questions, where relevant. All other questions are not limited to the recommendations, but as in previous years, cover the entire scope of the Report.

[3] Unless already covered in the input for the previous Rule of Law Reports.

Member State/enlargement country covered in contribution [only one choice possible]

If you wish to submit information concerning several Member States/enlargement countries, please fill in the questionnaire separately for each country. There is no limit to the number of contributions submitted by a single participant.

- ☐ Albania
- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Croatia
- ☐ Cyprus
- ☐ Czechia
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Estonia
- ☐ Finland

- ☐ France
- ☐ Germany
- ☐ Greece
- ☒ Hungary
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Latvia
- ☐ Lithuania
- ☐ Luxembourg
- ☐ Malta
- ☐ Montenegro
- ☐ Netherlands
- ☐ North Macedonia
- ☐ Poland
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Romania
- ☐ Serbia
- ☐ Slovakia
- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ Spain
- ☐ Sweden

I. Justice System

Please provide information on measures taken to follow-up on the recommendations received in the 2025 Report regarding the justice system (if applicable)

5000 character(s) maximum

1. Improve the transparency of case allocation systems in lower-instance courts, taking into account European standards on case allocation: No changes in this field since the previous report.
2. Take measures to ensure that the ongoing increase in the remuneration of judges, prosecutors and judicial and prosecutorial staff is carried out in a structured manner, taking into account European standards on remuneration for the justice system: At the end of 2024, the government announced a larger pay rise for judicial employees, as well as a three-stage increase in the salaries of judges and prosecutors over three years. The first stage of this has been implemented (15 %). However, even after the final stage, the increase affecting judges and prosecutors will still fall far short of the inflation rate in recent years, meaning that the real value of judges' and prosecutors' salaries continues to decline. In addition, the salary system for Supreme Court judges has been separated from the rest of the court system, and a significant salary increase has been introduced at the Supreme Court. This step results in a gross disproportion between the salaries of Supreme Court judges and other judges. (There has always been a difference in pay, but now the disparity is unjustifiable.) The government has therefore only partially complied with the Commission's recommendation of last year by the above-mentioned salary increase, which is not in line with international and European standards for the remuneration of the judiciary.
3. Establish a robust track record of investigations, prosecutions and final judgments for high-level corruption cases: No significant changes since the previous report.

A. Independence

Appointment and selection of judges, prosecutors and court presidents (incl. judicial review)

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

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant changes since the previous report.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

The Parliament passed the Act XLIX of 2025 on the amendment of certain acts in regard to justice on 11th June 2025. In this Act also the Act CLXII of 2011 on the on the Legal Status and Remuneration of Judges was also amended, having created the possibility for judges to remain in service over the 65 years of age till the 70 years of age. A judge only has to request that he/she would remain further in service and the employer may not reject the request, the president of the National Office for the Judiciary (NOJ) or of the Curia has to approve it. The request may only be rejected if it is submitted too early or too late (in less than a year before reaching the 65 year of age.)

Promotion of judges and prosecutors (incl. judicial review)

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant changes since the previous report.

Allocation of cases in courts

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant changes since the previous report.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

The National Council for the Judiciary in its 2 of 2015 – dated on 15 January- ruling declared the quadrilateral agreement of 22 November 2024 null and void, therefore the content of the agreement is not considered binding on the Council anymore. (See our previous report for details of the quadrilateral agreement)

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

5000 character(s) maximum

Government friendly media and Minister heading the Prime Minister's Office made several statements about the so called „Tisza-list“ scandal (see the details in the answer of question 11) in December criticizing the self governing bodies of the judiciary for not investigating judges whose names appear on the list.

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant changes in this field.

The previous General Prosecutor was elected as President of the Constitutional Court. A new General Prosecutor was elected (despite a recent amendment in the law which allows not choosing from prosecutors, the new General Prosecutor still is a prosecutor.) As far as we know nothing changed significantly with the new leader.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant changes in this field as far as we know.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

The Hungarian Association of Judges organized a demonstration for the independence of justice, which took place on 22 February 2025. There were approximately 5.000 participants on the venue of the demonstration, even the representatives of the EAJ and IAJ were present. This event was a huge success in the judiciary, resulting in a lot of judges and trainees having joined the Association.

The so called "Tisza-list" scandal: In the beginning of October 2025 a database application of the opposition party TISZA was hacked, and allegedly the personal data of more than 18.000 (according to other sources: approx. 200.000) registered users became public as a result of a possible criminal offense (according to the data protection authority). Later governmental sources claimed that it turned out that several judges had also downloaded the application and registered in it, some of them were even named in the media. Pro-government newspapers called the judges mentioned to resign, as being a sympathizer of a party is not compatible with impartiality, an important requirement of being a judge. At the end of December Minister heading the Prime Minister's Office criticized the self governing bodies of the judiciary for not investigating judges whose names appear on the list. Until now no judge had to resign because of this reason.

In December in an ongoing media lawsuit also the judge of the case was suspected that she downloaded the application, therefore she is obviously biased in the case. Politicians and officials of the government called for resistance against the decisions, especially against the interim measure (banning the distribution of the given issue of the medium) of the court. The National Judicial Council therefore issued a declaration that the decisions of courts shall be respected and obeyed.

B. Quality of justice

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

[single market relevance] Accessibility of courts (e.g. court/legal fees, legal aid, language)

5000 character(s) maximum

Court fee regulations were amended during the year, mainly affecting fees for first-instance proceedings. Fees were reduced for cases with a lower value in dispute, while they were increased for cases with a higher value in dispute. In addition, a banded, progressively variable fee system was introduced for first-instance proceedings, replacing the previous flat-rate fee system. This ensures better access to the courts for people living in more modest circumstances.

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

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

5000 character(s) maximum

The problems indicated in the last report continued all year long. (Depreciation of judicial salaries, unjustifiable disparities in the salary system)

[single market relevance] Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff, clerks/trainees)

5000 character(s) maximum

There were not any positive or negative changes with this regard in 2025.

Digitalisation (e.g. use of digital technology, including electronic communication and AI tools, within the justice system and with court users, procedural rules, access to judgments online)

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant changes since the previous report.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

There is still a lack of qualified staff concerning information technology. The reason behind this problem is the lack of competitive salary. The salary of these experts are significantly higher in the business area.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

The central area (especially the Metropolitan Court) is still overburdened with the number of crimes concerning economic cases while the number of that kind of cases are significantly lower in most of the other regions and counties. The rational distribution of this problem is still unresolved. The same problem arises with regard to the Central District Court of Pest (Pesti Központi Kerületi Bíróság) faces with a crucial problem since the imbalanced number of cases are inproportitonate to the staff (judges, clercks, traniees, etc.) that serve there.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

C. 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 in the introduction)

[single market relevance] Developments related to efforts to improve the efficiency of the justice system (e.g. as regards length of proceedings, to address backlogs)

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant changes since the previous report

Any other developments related to the justice system - please specify

5000 character(s) maximum

The number of court staff is still decreasing, while the payrise is moderate. (especially in the capital.

II. Anti-Corruption Framework

Where previous specific reports, published in the framework of the review under the UN Convention against Corruption, of GRECO, and of the OECD address the issues below, please make a reference to the points you wish to bring to the Commission's attention in these documents, indicating any relevant updates, changes or measures introduced that have occurred since these documents were published.

Please provide information on measures taken to follow-up on the recommendations received in the 2025 Report regarding the anti-corruption framework (if applicable):

5000 character(s) maximum

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

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

B. Prevention

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

--> For the three previous points, **please also provide information and figures on their application /enforcement if available to you**, such as number of detected breaches/irregularities of the various rules in place and the follow-up given (investigations, sanctions, etc.)

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

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

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Measures for the prevention of corruption in relation to the issuing of official permits (e.g. related to environment, energy, service provision and various types of construction)

5000 character(s) maximum

C. Repression

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

Any other developments related to the anti-corruption framework - please specify

5000 character(s) maximum

III. Media pluralism and media freedom

Please provide information on measures taken to follow-up on the recommendations received in the 2025 Report regarding media pluralism and media freedom (if applicable)

5000 character(s) maximum

A. Media authorities and bodies

Measures taken to ensure the independence, enforcement powers and adequacy of resources (financial, human and technical) of media regulatory authorities and bodies

5000 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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

[single market relevance] Measures taken to ensure the fair and transparent allocation of state advertising

5000 character(s) maximum

Safeguards against state / political interference, in particular:

- safeguards to ensure editorial independence of media (private and public)
- specific safeguards for the independence of heads of management and members of the governing boards of public service media (e.g. related to appointment, dismissal), safeguards for their financial and operational independence (e.g. related to reporting obligations and the allocation of resources) and safeguards for plurality of information and opinions

- **[single market relevance]** information on specific legal provisions and procedures applying to media service providers, including as regards granting /renewal/termination of licenses, company operation, capital entry requirements, concentration and corporate governance

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information, including on direct, indirect and beneficial owners

5000 character(s) maximum

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

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

Any other developments related to media pluralism and freedom - please specify

5000 character(s) maximum

IV. Other institutional issues related to checks and balances

Please provide information on measures taken to follow-up on the recommendations received in the 2025 Report regarding the system of checks and balances (if applicable)

5000 character(s) maximum

A. The process for preparing, enacting and implementing laws

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

** This includes also the consultation of social partners*

5000 character(s) maximum

Generally there was no positive developments.
However, the Parliament has enacted the Act XLIX of 2025 on the amendment of certain acts in regard to justice on 11th June 2025, partly based on the the quadrilateral agreement of 22 November 2024. The draft of the act was sent to the stakeholders of the justice system for consultation by the Ministry of Justice, the deadline for the courts to make proposals was later prolonged by the National Office for the Judiciary (NOJ). After the consultation, when the draft was filed with the Parliament, the proposals of the judiciary was taken into consideration in some question. E.g. the rules for judges remaining in service after the 65 year of age became more favourable for judges (no extra evaluation and aptitude test of the judge is needed, there is no discretionary decision of the president of the NOJ) their disadvantageous state comparing to prosecutors

ceased in the draft, and the Parliament enacted the law with this content.

Unfortunately no positive changes in the quality and application of impact assessments of legislative proposals, generally the participation of stakeholders, civil society parties are quite formal, the deadlines for consultation are usually very short.

[single market relevance] 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)

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Safeguards to ensure legal certainty, the stability of the legal framework and non-discrimination.

5000 character(s) maximum

Firstly, for several years, fundamental, important acts are amended very often which undermines the stability and accountability of the legal framework. E.g. the modifications of the Criminal Code were coming into effect in 10 different dates in 2025; those of the Criminal Procedure Act were taking effect in 9 different dates in 2025. Even in the case of new acts the situation is similar; the provisions of the Act XLIX of 2025 on the amendment of certain acts in regard to justice (mentioned at Question 21 above) enter into force in 5 different dates in 2025 and 2026.

Secondly, the issues pertaining to justice are regulated in 'salad-style' statutes, as the legal jargon calls them. It means that a certain act – primarily not dealing with justice - amends dozens of statutes, including fundamental statutes with regard to justice on the margins.

Finally, it often happens that an act is amended on an 'ad hoc' basis, without longer preliminary preparation, just on daily political interest, usually triggered by a specific event.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

The state of war in Hungary has been prolonged till 13 May 2026. As we indicated in the previous questionnaire, this legal state provides the government very wide powers, even the possibility to issue decrees in subjects belonging in the competence of the legislation. As the parliamentary elections are due in April 2026 in Hungary, recently fears were expressed by non-governmental sources that the state of war empowers the government to amend the constitutional rules with regard to the elections. Nevertheless the government denied having such intentions.

Regime for constitutional review of laws

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant changes since the previous report.

B. Independent authorities

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

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

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant changes since the previous report.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Safeguards to ensure the effective independence of supervisory and regulatory authorities with a direct impact on economic operators such as national economic oversight, enforcement and competition authorities

No changes since the previous report.

C. Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

[single market relevance] Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data) and respect of the good administration principle (including the obligation of the administration to give reasons for decisions)

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Judicial review of administrative decisions: short description of the general regime (in particular competent court, scope, suspensive effect, interim measures, and any applicable specific rules or derogations from the general regime of judicial review)

5000 character(s) maximum

To launch a process for the judicial review, in most cases one shall file the claim with the administrative organ of first instance. A claim can be based on the omission of the authority, on the infringement of the legal

regulations by the administrative authority, but compensation or the stating the relevant facts can be also claimed. The presence of a legal representative is not obligatory in all types of cases.

Out of the 20 regions of the country, there are 8 competent regional courts in these cases. Generally, filing the claim does not have a suspensive effect, but if the claimant asks for an immediate defence of their rights, the court may declare the claim to have a suspensive effect on the enforcement of the administrative decision or may impose an interim measure. There is a free evidentiary process in the procedure of the court. The court may revoke the administrative decision and oblige the administrative authority to carry out a new process, but may also overturn the administrative decision if the facts are clear and the court is able to pass the new decision.

[single market relevance] Safeguards (other than judicial review) regarding decisions or inaction of administrative authorities, including remedies (e.g. administrative review)

5000 character(s) maximum

[single market relevance] Rules and practices related to the application by all courts, including constitutional jurisdictions, of the preliminary ruling procedure (Art. 267 TFEU)

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant changes since the previous report.

[single market relevance] Implementation of final judgments by the public administration and State institutions and follow-up given to supranational judgments, including decisions from the European Court of Human Rights, as well as available remedies in case of non-implementation

5000 character(s) maximum

In December in an ongoing media lawsuit the judge of the case was suspected that she downloaded the Tisza-application, therefore she is obviously biased in the case. Politicians and officials of the government called for resistance against the decisions, especially against the interim measure (banning the distribution of the given issue of the medium) of the court. The National Judicial Council therefore issued a declaration that the decisions of courts shall be respected and obeyed.

In its declaration of 20 December the Association also emphasized that the decisions of the courts are obligatory for everyone, they are neither opinions, nor means of political campaigns. The court decisions are based on law and may be challenged or reviewed only on legal grounds and in legal proceedings.

Oversight, including by courts, of the use of intrusive surveillance software by national authorities

5000 character(s) maximum

If the application of such a software is needed in a criminal procedure, the use and the prolongation of the use has to be permitted by the judge of investigation, according to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act. The

judge may also supervise the application.

If the necessity of the application is based on a national security interest, the application must be permitted by the Metropolitan Court or in certain cases by the Minister of Justice. The oversight of the application also belongs to their competence.

D. The enabling framework for civil society

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

5000 character(s) maximum

The Sovereignty Protection Office, established in February 2024, is tasked with promoting national sovereignty. The Office has broad powers to investigate any organization or individual suspected of serving foreign interests or threatening national sovereignty. There is no legal remedy against the Office's investigation or report. Several civil society organizations and investigative websites have come under the Office's scrutiny in 2025. For example, in February 2025, the Office again sharply criticized the Corruption Perceptions Index published by Transparency International Hungary (TI), calling it a "disinformation campaign" and claiming that it was attempting to influence the international perception of Hungarian public life. According to the report, the organization operates with foreign funding and engages in political lobbying.

In the same year, TI appealed to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg against the sovereignty protection law and the operation of the Office, arguing that they restrict freedom of expression and the functioning of civil society organizations.

In the first half of 2025, pro-government representatives submitted a draft for a so called "Transparency law" to parliament targeting organizations that influence public life with foreign funding. The law would greatly expand the powers of the Office and impose severe restrictions on the activities of organizations listed by the Office. A few examples: the senior officers, founders, and members of the supervisory or audit committee of the listed organization are considered prominent public figures and are required to submit an annual declaration of assets, which is published by the Minister of Justice; these organizations may accept foreign support with the permission of the anti-money laundering authority; they are not eligible for the one percent of personal income tax paid by taxpayers at their discretion; when providing financial or in-kind support, they must request a statement from their supporters, whether natural persons, legal entities, or other organizations, in the form of a private document with probative value, confirming that the support does not originate directly or indirectly from a foreign source.

Numerous NGO-s protested against the bill and organized demonstrations. The ruling party postponed the vote on the draft until the fall, but in the end, it did not take place, however it is unclear what the plan is for the draft, as no decision has been made to withdraw it.

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

public perception of civil society organisations, etc. It also includes measures to monitor threats or attacks and dedicated support services, as well as available remedies

5000 character(s) maximum

See the answer to the previous question

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

5000 character(s) maximum

See the answer to the previous question

E. Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

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

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant changes since the previous report.

Any other developments related to the system of checks and balances - please specify

5000 character(s) maximum

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

If there are any significant challenges concerning the Single Market you have been facing in a cross-border context relating to any of the four pillars of the report, including for example issues with market access and the conditions for economic activities, that you would like to highlight, please do so here.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

Supporting document upload

If you would like to submit any supporting document(s) to your contribution, please upload your file(s) here

Contact

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