

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

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 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

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

The independence of the Constitutional Court is formally guaranteed by law; however, the political appointment process of its members [9 judges appointed per term, 3 by the Senate, 3 by the Chamber of Deputies and 3 by the President] continues to raise concerns regarding perceived independence, especially in cases touching upon human rights and protection of marginalised groups.

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

Promotion of judges and prosecutors (incl. judicial review)

5000 character(s) maximum

Allocation of cases in courts

5000 character(s) maximum

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

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

Concerns regarding judicial independence and impartiality have been raised by repeated public statements made on social media by a judge from Timișoara [<https://stirileprotv.ro/stiri/social/judecator-roman-despre-comunitatea-gay-o-mana-de-imberbi-nu-le-creste-barba-si-nu-se-hotarasc-daca-sa-poarte-sau-nu-sutien.html>], spanning several years, which included homophobic and stigmatizing remarks about LGBTI people and Pride events. Such statements were documented by national media as early as 2021 and have continued through 2025 as reflected in publicly available social media posts [<https://www.facebook.com/adriana.stoicescu.9>, please contact ILGA-Europe for screenshots of posts which have since been removed]. There is no publicly available information on any disciplinary action on the Judicial Inspection website [<https://inspectiajudiciara.ro/page/Actiuni-disciplinare>].

These statements, made in a public and identifiable capacity, reproduce harmful stereotypes and frame LGBTI visibility as a societal threat. Although these statements were not made in relation to a specific case, the fact that they were made publicly and repeatedly by a judge raises concerns about perceived impartiality, especially in cases involving LGBTI people, freedom of assembly or discrimination. This pattern risks undermining LGBTI litigants' confidence in the judiciary and contributes to a broader hostile environment affecting access to justice for such an already vulnerable community.

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

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

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

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

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

[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

Any other developments related to the justice system - please specify

5000 character(s) maximum

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

(Cf. Article 30 of Directive 2018/1808)

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

Most major media outlets are privately owned; however, the Romanian media landscape is widely characterised by political and economic dependencies, including through political advertising, party-linked financing and preferential access arrangements. This creates incentives for some broadcasters to provide repeated platforms for public figures to promote anti-LGBTI rhetoric framed as “political opinion” or “values-based debate”, with limited editorial moderation. As a result, LGBTI topics are often presented through a sensationalised or hostile lens, which further normalises stigma and encourages harassment.

LGBTI activists and organisations have been targeted primarily via online platforms, including through coordinated hate campaigns, disinformation and incitement during election periods. These dynamics have contributed to a chilling effect on public participation and the ability of civil society actors to communicate safely online.

ACCEPT has filed multiple complaints with the National Audiovisual Council (CNA) in relation to homophobic and transphobic statements broadcast on air, including cases in which broadcasters failed to intervene or moderate discriminatory speech by guests. In 2025, particularly in the period preceding Pride events and during the electoral campaign, ACCEPT submitted several complaints concerning television programmes in which LGBTI people were referred to using degrading terms such as “deviants” or “anomalies”, in a context of heightened political polarisation. These complaints were generally resolved with warnings, rather than stronger sanctions.

In another 2025 case, a highly popular entertainment reality show aired transphobic remarks and jokes made by participants on camera. Despite CNA having sanctioned comparable transphobic content in previous years, the Council considered these statements to fall under freedom of expression, illustrating inconsistent enforcement standards.

During the 2025 election period, CNA operated in coordination with the Central Electoral Bureau (BEC). ACCEPT reported multiple instances of broadcast and online content supporting the far-right presidential candidate George Simion and the party AUR, often combining anti-European and anti-LGBTI narratives. While some materials were removed following notification, others remained available, pointing to uneven follow-up and limited deterrent effect, particularly during periods of intensified political campaigning.

Overall, authorities’ responses to hate speech in broadcast media and online spaces remain insufficient. Existing legal and regulatory mechanisms are applied inconsistently, and there is no effective, timely system to prevent the amplification of anti-LGBTI hate speech and misinformation during election periods, when its impact is particularly harmful.

[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

Although Romanian legislation formally requires public consultation and transparency in the law-making process, there are no sanctions in case of infringement of these legal provisions. Moreover, in practice, meaningful consultation is frequently limited, timelines are often insufficient for genuine scrutiny, and access to parliamentary processes (committee work, amendments, and real-time legislative drafting) is not transparent. This undermines checks and balances and restricts civil society's ability to engage effectively. LGBTI organisations are not systematically included in policy-making or decision-making processes. When consultations occur, they are often selective or formalistic, and LGBTI perspectives are frequently excluded from discussions on family, education, health, public order, or child protection policies—areas where LGBTI people are directly affected. In addition, in order to bypass the aforementioned requirement for public consultation, the Government continues to adopt legislation by emergency ordinances.

[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

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

5000 character(s) maximum

Regime for constitutional review of laws

5000 character(s) maximum

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

ACCEPT has maintained a constructive working relationship with the Ombudsperson, including engagement in discussions related to the implementation of ECtHR and CJEU judgments affecting LGBTI people. The Ombudsperson has shown openness to addressing these issues and has supported working-level exchanges; however, progress has remained limited, with no concrete legislative outcomes from the institutions involved in these working meetings. Institutional continuity has also been affected by mandate-related uncertainty and political dynamics.

The CNCD (National Council for Combating Discrimination) has a mandate that covers discrimination on grounds relevant to sexual orientation and gender identity in practice, but its independence and effectiveness are increasingly questioned due to procedural inefficiencies, limited transparency, and controversial decisions - some of which were overturned by courts. The case of the printing shop reported in last year's submission is still pending before the CNCD. Procedural changes requiring a majority vote of council members for self-initiated investigations have further slowed decision-making, limiting the effectiveness of this mechanism, particularly in cases requiring urgent intervention.

LGBTI organisations sought to challenge hate speech by public officials using electoral law mechanisms, which are legally required to provide expedited remedies, in the context of Romanian presidential elections. In practice, complaints were redirected to CNCD, where lengthy timelines allowed discriminatory content to remain publicly accessible throughout the Presidential electoral campaigns during the April-May 2025, thereby undermining the effectiveness of legal protection and enabling continued harm.

Recommendation:

- Romania should ensure timely remedies against hate speech and discrimination, particularly during electoral periods, and improve the transparency and efficiency of the National Council for Combating Discrimination.

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

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

[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

[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

There has been no progress in the implementation of relevant CJEU and ECtHR judgements reported on in last year's report (2018 judgement in case C-673/16 Coman, 2023 Buhuceanu and Others judgement of the ECtHR, and 2021 X and Y judgement of the ECtHR). There has also been no development in the implementation of the new CJEU judgement reported on last year – October 2024 judgement in case C-4/23 Mirin [<https://www.ilga-europe.org/press-release/romanian-transgender-mans-landmark-case-requesting-that-romania-acknowledges-his-uk-gender-recognition-referred-to-the-court-of-justice-of-the-european-union/#:~:text=Arian%20Mirzarafie-Ahi,%20a%20transgender%20man%20with%20Romanian%20and%20British%20citizenship,>]. These judgements represent a systemic disregard for the rule of law in relation to equality for both trans persons and same-sex couples.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

Unequal application of rules governing freedom of assembly:
The rejection of Pride in Oradea for the third consecutive year demonstrates a troubling pattern of institutional resistance against the LGBTI community's right to freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. Pride-related events were effectively prohibited through repeated refusals of authorisation by local authorities, despite timely and procedurally compliant requests submitted by organisers. Refusals relied on vague and inconsistent justifications (including alleged pre-booking of public spaces), without transparent evidence or good-faith

engagement. Pride organisers provided 12 route options, all were refused as the municipality informed them that 10 routes had religious demonstrations that day and the other two were construction sites opening some days before the event date. Following the refusal of authorisation, organisers held the march on one of the 10 routes which were supposed to have a religious demonstration, and which was in fact empty. Organisers and participants were fined, including in relation to peaceful protest actions. These sanctions (EUR 1,000 per organiser and EUR 100-200 per participant), were disproportionate and punitive, creating a chilling effect and discouraging future assemblies. The combined practice of refusal of authorisation, lack of effective remedies and imposition of fines raises serious concerns regarding Romania's compliance with Article 11 ECHR and the equal application of public order rules.

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

Safety of LGBTI human rights defenders

LGBTI organisations continue to face attacks and intimidation, and accountability remains weak. In ACCEPT's case, authorities have failed to identify perpetrators in relation to previous incidents targeting the organisation (including vandalism), which we reported on in our submission for the 2024 report, despite the submission of available evidence. In the context of the May 2025 Presidential elections, LGBTI organisations were subjected to online threats and incitement, including the publication of office addresses and calls for violence. Criminal complaints have been filed by organisations, yet follow-up and deterrence remain limited.

Hate speech and smear campaigns online

Anti-LGBTI hate speech has increased significantly online, particularly during election periods, including through coordinated campaigns on social media platforms. Civil society actors have documented cases of dehumanising content and explicit incitement to violence. LGBTI people were repeatedly used as political scapegoats, with elected officials and candidates making public statements portraying LGBTI rights as a threat to public order, national identity or "traditional values". [See <https://www.rfi.fr/ro/romania/20250204-declaratiile-lui-marcel-ciolacu-si-crin-antonescu-despre-comunitatea-lgbt-sunt-dezgustatoare-buhuceanu> and <https://hotnews.ro/premierul-ciolacu-despre-noile-carti-de-identitate-si-datele-privind-sexul-persoanei-nu-vom-permite-strecurarea-perfida-a-unor-elemente-woke-1924636> for example]. These statements were widely disseminated through mainstream media and social media platforms.

Complaints concerning anti-LGBTI and anti-European content were addressed through mechanisms involving the National Audiovisual Council (CNA) and the Central Electoral Bureau (BEC). Civil society organisations reported numerous instances of online content supporting George Simion, presidential candidate and leader of AUR, frequently combining anti-European narratives with anti-LGBTI rhetoric and specific far-right coded language. While some materials were removed following notification, others remained accessible; several are no longer available online.

In addition, during the broader electoral period, in March 2025, senior public officials and presidential candidates made public statements reinforcing stigmatizing narratives. For example, Prime Minister and

presidential candidate Marcel Ciolacu framed discussions on gender identity and identity documents as a threat linked to so-called “woke ideology”, stating that he did not want to be “forced to wear a skirt”, a remark that trivialised and ridiculed gender identity debates and contributed to hostile public discourse against LGBTI people.

Authorities’ responses remain inconsistent: investigations are often slow, outcomes are unclear, and victims frequently rely on CSOs for support and guidance rather than public institutions. While prosecutors have had access since 2020 to a hate crime investigation methodology, effective implementation remains uneven.

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

LGBTI organisations continue to face challenges in ensuring sustainable funding, and there are limited national mechanisms which can support civil society working on LGBTI related topics.

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

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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