

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

Consejo General de la Abogacía Española

Main Areas of Work

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

If "Other", please specify

Fundamental & Human Rights

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

500 character(s) maximum

www.abogacia.es

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

449942813570-96

* 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

bruselas@abogacia.es

* 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

In its opinion on the renewal of the General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ), the Venice Commission has highlighted the need to include practising solicitors as members in order to guarantee the plurality of the judiciary and avoid corporatism.

"The mixed composition of the judiciary ensures pluralism and democratic accountability. It should also be emphasised that the judiciary should also include representatives from other legal professions, such as practising lawyers and university professors. Plurality is a value in itself and also serves to counteract the risk of corporatism," the Venice Commission states in its opinion, in line with the demands of the legal profession. This opinion on the system for electing judicial members of Spain's General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ) was approved at the 144th plenary session of the Venice Commission. A delegation from this body visited Madrid in mid-September to meet with the main institutions, including the General Council of Spanish Lawyers, in preparation for the report.

In its opinion, the Venice Commission mentions its visit to the General Council of Spanish Lawyers and thanks the Spanish authorities for the 'excellent organisation of the visit', which also included meetings with the Senate, the Congress, the Government and the Supreme Court, among other institutions and authorities. The Venice Commission also states that it sees problems of 'external and internal politicisation' in the two proposals for models for the election of judicial members of the General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ).

At its meeting with representatives of the Venice Commission in September, the Bar Council conveyed to them the enormous importance of the future Council of the Judiciary, which will be created as a result of the change in the model for electing its members, having representatives of the profession of Lawyer among its members on a mandatory basis.

The Secretary General of our Council, Encarna Orduna, explained that the presence of the Bar in this branch of the State's powers, in addition to being a legal requirement under current legislation, reinforces its independence from politics and contributes to creating a more pluralistic body, always focused on serving society.

The Venice Commission points out that the incorporation of practising lawyers as members guarantees the plurality of the CGPJ – Spanish Bar Council.

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

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

The Organic Law 1/2025 creates new Sections for Violence against Children and Adolescents, in response to the mandate of Organic Law 8/2021 on comprehensive protection for children. These sections have jurisdiction over crimes of violence against minors, with specialised judges and specific training in children's rights. As of October 2025, these courts have expanded their jurisdiction to include crimes of sexual violence (although this initially caused debate about its effective implementation). Fifty new judicial positions (a 42% increase) and 42 new positions for specialised prosecutors were created.

In this context, one of the main meetings of the Bar Council in the second half of 2025 was the Conference on Gender Violence. Among the conclusions, IV and VI stand out:

"We welcome the specialisation of the judicial bodies, and in particular, the sections dedicated to violence against women. However, this specialisation cannot, under any circumstances, imply a reduction in the rights and guarantees of victims. The regionalisation of judicial bodies is having the opposite effect to that desired: it distances justice from victims, undermines the immediacy of the judicial body and increases their vulnerability, and causes additional revictimisation due to the travel and emotional and financial burden that this entails. It is essential to adopt real and effective personal and material resources to compensate for the damage caused by regionalisation, thus guaranteeing truly accessible, dignified and respectful access to justice for victims."

"We reiterate our positive assessment of the specialisation of judicial bodies introduced by Royal Decree 1 /2025 on Efficiency, as it constitutes a necessary step towards a more technical and sensitive justice system in matters of particular social importance. However, we cannot fail to warn that the attribution to the violence sections of all crimes against sexual freedom threatens to generate structural saturation from the outset. This overload will seriously compromise the speed and effectiveness of the judicial response, undermining the objectives of efficiency and proximity that inspire the reform. We therefore call for sufficient organisational, personnel and material measures to ensure that specialisation does not become an obstacle to effective access to justice and the right to a trial within a reasonable time."

The Spanish Advocates call for greater specialisation among legal practitioners and criticises the regionalisation of the judiciary in the fight against gender-based violence – Spanish Bar Council

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

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

5000 character(s) maximum

- The Spanish Bar Council calls for respect for judicial decisions <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/la-abogacia-pide-respeto-a-las-decisiones-judiciales-y-urge-a-confeccionar-un-nuevo-protocolo-de-conformidad-con-la-fiscalia/>
- The Supreme Court reinforces the importance of confidentiality in the application of the compliance protocol signed with the Spanish Bar Council <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/el-supremo-refuerza-la-importancia-de-la-confidencialidad-en-la-aplicacion-del-protocolo-de-conformidad-firmado-con-la-abogacia-espanola/> Following the conviction of the Attorney General, the key importance of the protocol signed by the Public Prosecutor's Office itself with the General Council of Spanish Lawyers in 2009 was highlighted.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

- The CGAE adopts a set of regulations to better protect lawyers. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/la-abogacia-se-dota-de-un-reglamento-de-amparo-colegial-para-proteger-mejor-a-abogados-y-abogadas/>. It protects their independence from interference.

*Pensions and mutual societies:

- The Bar Council calls on the Senate to speed up the reform of the gateway for mutual society members once consensus has been reached. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/la-abogacia-emplaza-al-senado-a-agilizar-la-reforma-de-la-pasarela-para-los-mutualistas-cuando-se-alcance-el-consenso/> The CGAE has urged legislators to provide a swift and comprehensive constitutional response to resolve the problem of mutual societies and insufficient pensions faced by thousands of solicitors, which is affecting their financial independence.

- Lawyers and mutual society organisations affected are calling on political parties to make a final effort to agree on the RETA Gateway <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/abogacia-y-organizaciones-de-mutualistas-afectados-reclaman-a-los-partidos-un-ultimo-esfuerzo-para-acordar-la-pasarela-al-reta/>

- "The reform that will enable the RETA Gateway cannot wait any longer. A solution to the problem of mutual society members is urgently needed" <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/la-reforma-que-habilitara-la-pasarela-al-reta-no-puede-esperar-mas-urge-a-la-solucion-al-problema-de-los-mutualistas/>

- The European Parliament urges the Spanish Government to find solutions for mutual society members that comply with EU law. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/el-parlamento-europeo-exhorta-al-gobierno-espanol-a-que-encuentre-soluciones-para-los-mutualistas-que-se-ajusten-a-las-leyes-de-la-ue/>

- Salvador González stresses the importance of defending legal professionals. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/salvador-gonzalez-subraya-la-importancia-de-defender-a-los-profesionales-de-la-abogacia/>. Following human rights awards focused on defending those who defend others, the need to protect the role of lawyers is highlighted.

- The Spanish Bar attends the trial against the dean of the Istanbul Bar Association and its Board. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/la-abogacia-espanola-asiste-al-juicio-contra-el-decano-del-colegio-de-abogados-de-estambul-y-su-junta/>. Support for the defence of the independence of the legal profession in other countries where it is under threat.

- The Spanish Bar reinforces professional secrecy. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/el-consejo-general-de-la-abogacia-espanola-refuerza-el-secreto-profesional/>. Its independence is reinforced through an interpretative circular that clarifies the infringement and reinforces the protection of professional secrecy.

- The Spanish Bar shares ATA's satisfaction with the suspension of the increase in self-employed contributions. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/la-abogacia-comparte-con-ata-la-satisfaccion-por-la-paralizacion-de-la-subida-de-las-cuotas-de-los-autonomos/>. This measure has a direct impact on the economic and professional capacity of lawyers who practise as self-employed professionals, which influences their real independence, as if they have excessive costs, they may lose their autonomy.

*Convention for the Protection of Lawyers

- *External source: Lawyers call on Spain to ratify the European convention protecting the profession <https://www.lawandtrends.com/noticias/abogacia/la-abogacia-pide-que-espana-ratifique-el-convenio-europeo-que-protege-la-profesion-1.html>

- The Ministry of Justice is working to make Spain one of the first countries to ratify the European Convention on the Protection of the Legal Profession. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/justicia-trabaja-para-que-espana-sea-uno-de-los-primeros-paises-en-ratificar-el-convenio-europeo-de-proteccion-de-la-abogacia/>. The signing of the convention will affect the protection and, therefore, the independence of the profession of lawyer in Spain.

- The European Bar emphasises the importance of the Convention for the Protection of the Legal Profession in Italy. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/la-abogacia-europea-subraya-en-italia-la-importancia-del-convenio-para-la-proteccion-de-la-abogacia/>

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

5000 character(s) maximum

The Spanish Bar warns of the damage already caused by the first day of the strike by judges and prosecutors and calls for its impact to be minimised (1 July 2025)

The Spanish Bar lamented the unquestionable damage caused by the first day of the strike by judges and prosecutors and warned that the tens of thousands of cases affected will not be resolved during 2025, which will further complicate the situation of a judicial system with almost eight million pending cases.

"We do not have official figures on the turnout for this first day, but the deans have already been reporting to me the incidents, suspensions and wasted journeys that have occurred in their territories. Whatever the impact of the strike, a single day is a lot and the impact is great," said the president of the Bar, Salvador González. "2024 ended with almost eight million pending cases and we could end 2025 with a much worse outlook," he added. González therefore reiterated the need for the associations of judges and prosecutors calling the strike and the government to resume dialogue to end the conflict. He called for minimum services to be maintained while the strike continues and for measures to be put in place to minimise the damage to the public and legal professionals.

Specifically, he called for, among other measures, sufficient advance notice of suspended hearings and trials, measures to ensure that judicial offices with striking staff continue to process cases, and that in those courts where staff are not on strike, work continues as normal.

He also requested that the delays caused by this strike be alleviated by rescheduling cases as soon as possible and by the authorities establishing recovery plans to enable the citizens affected to have the damage caused repaired as soon as possible.

'Let us not forget that behind every suspended trial, there are citizens and legal professionals who have been unable to obtain the right to effective judicial protection recognised by our Constitution,' recalled the president of the Bar Association.

The Bar warns of the damage already caused on the first day of the strike by judges and prosecutors and calls for its impact to be minimised – Spanish Council of the Bar

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

- The Spanish Bar demands the application of the law to ensure effective conciliation and respect for the principle of the right to defence. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/la-abogacia-espanola-exige-la-aplicacion-de-la-ley-para-hacer-efectiva-la-conciliacion-y-el-respeto-al-principio-del-derecho-de-defensa/>. We call for the effective implementation of regulatory reforms and an end to the unjustified denial of suspensions of procedural deadlines due to the hospitalisation or serious illness of lawyers, respecting the right to defence and, therefore, access to justice.
- The figures for legal aid reveal that its reform cannot be postponed. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/las-cifras-del-turno-de-oficio-revelan-que-su-reforma-es-inaplazable/> Such a significant decline in the number of lawyers assigned to the legal aid system affects access to free legal aid and, therefore, the quality of the system.
- As part of the celebrations for Free Legal Aid Day, which is commemorated every 12 July, González also called once again for the promotion of a new law regulating free legal aid, 'which is so much needed' and is 'as urgent as the increase in fees or the payment of all actions carried out, including the pre-trial negotiation activity of the legal aid service'.
- Conclusion of the Gender Violence Conference: The Spanish Bar Association reiterates the demand already made in previous conferences regarding the need to carry out legislative changes that establish the mandatory nature of legal assistance for victims from the moment prior to the filing of the complaint, a proposal that has been endorsed by the Observatory on Domestic and Gender Violence of the General Council of the Judiciary and is in line with the measures established in the State Pact against Gender Violence.
- 'An incalculable number of people have had to give up claiming their rights before the courts because they have made it financially unpredictable.'

Conflict resolution experts argue that problems that are complex to explain are much more difficult to resolve than those that everyone can understand in less than 30 seconds, even if the solution to both issues requires the same mechanisms. And it is true that it does little to help resolve the problem of collegial criteria for assessing legal costs to have to travel back in time to explain why they are so important for the functioning of justice in our country. The existence of these criteria did not make the justice system exemplary, but at least when a client visited a law firm, they left knowing the alternatives that the future held for them if they won or lost the case. That citizen knew very approximately whether they could take the risk of going to court and the judge not ruling in their favour.

However, a few years ago, the National Markets and Competition Commission decided that, although they were useful, their effect on possible market price fixing was more harmful and imposed heavy fines on some Bar Associations. Years later, the Supreme Court interpreted the laws and ruled in their favour. We had no choice but to promote legal reform. It was not easy, but we succeeded.

Article 6 of the Law on the Right of Defence states: 'Local Bars may draw up and publish objective and transparent guidelines for quantifying and calculating reasonable fees for the sole purpose of assessing costs and certifying accounts'.

I cannot understand why, but the CNMC says that what is published in the Official State Gazette does not alter its view of things. The same councillors and officials who swore to uphold and enforce the law when they took office are now looking the other way when a rule does not fit their world's view.

Meanwhile, despite the backing of an Organic Law, tens of thousands of solicitors are forced to continue explaining to hundreds of thousands of clients that we cannot know how much the cost of defeat would be because that right conflicts with free competition.

As a result, an incalculable number of people have had to give up claiming their rights before the courts because they have made it economically unpredictable.

<https://confilegal.com/20260116-opinion-honorarios-sin-criterios/>

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

Institutional statement from the CGAE:

"The Spanish Bar, meeting in plenary session, views with great concern the collision between five associations of judges and prosecutors and the Government. The positions held so far augur not only the three days of strike action called for next week, but also a string of protests and walkouts that could once again plunge the Spanish justice system into paralysis.

We also find that the General Council of the Judiciary declared yesterday that the strike call lacks regulatory support, and therefore it will not be considered announced and no minimum services will be established. This circumstance generates further uncertainty and insecurity about the course of the strike and, as indicated by the CGPJ itself, leads us to appeal to the institutional responsibility of those who exercise constitutional functions, whether legislative, governmental or jurisdictional.

Given the serious harm that this confrontation could cause to the public, the main decisional organ of the Bar, its Plenary Session, calls on both parties to resume dialogue. Neither is the reform so urgent after decades of operating with the current access system, nor should consecutive strikes ever be the first voice of rejection of a political initiative.

For this reason, the Spanish Bar calls for common sense and empathy with the tens of thousands of professionals and citizens who, next week, but also for the rest of the month, will see their right to effective judicial protection within a reasonable time frame trampled upon. Many legal professionals and citizens travel daily for court proceedings and hearings, which is why we demand that, if a strike does ultimately take place, it be carried out with sensitivity and respect in order to minimise the damage.

We know that the delays in many Spanish courts have long been unacceptable, but multiplying these delays could have a devastating effect.

It would be completely incomprehensible to legal practitioners, who have been calling for reforms for years to reverse the deterioration of the service, and especially to the thousands of citizens who will be affected, if there were not even an attempt to bring the parties together to avoid the dire consequences of the strike.

Finally, the Plenary Session of the Spanish Bar urges all parties to realise that justice is defended every single day that it functions normally, calling on them to do everything in their power to prevent serious damage to a service that is already much maligned.

Justice is defended on a daily basis – Spanish Bar

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

5000 character(s) maximum

- The CGAE has offered various training courses for solicitors: <https://www.abogacia.es/formacion/>
- We would like to highlight that by the end of this year, more than 18,000 legal professionals are already starting their training with the Upro Programme in Digital Skills, which is free of charge for them, with the Upro Programme in Digital Skills. This program covering a total of nineteen liberal professions is supported by €200 million of European funds and which will train tens of thousands of lawyers until June 2026 to better face the digital challenges of the profession. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/mas-de-15-000-profesionales-de-la-abogacia-ya-se-estan-formando-con-el-programa-upro-en-competencias-digitales/>

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

- The legal profession calls for a responsible digital revolution with more training to take advantage of AI without losing guarantees. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/la-abogacia-reivindica-una-revolucion-digital-responsable-con-mas-formacion-para-aprovechar-la-ia-sin-perder-garantias/>
- In 2026, the Spanish Bar will focus on training and technological services for its members. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/la-abogacia-espanola-se-volcara-en-2026-en-la-formacion-y-los-servicios-tecnologicos-al-colegiado/> In 2026, the Council will deepen its commitment to technological services, consolidating indispensable tools for members, such as ACA Plus in the Cloud, and the new Modular Management System for the Legal Profession, designed to renew and replace SIG.
- 'The challenge for lawyers is not only to provide digital evidence, but to demonstrate that it is reliable and lawful.' <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/joaquin-delgado-el-reto-para-el-abogado-no-es-solo-aportar-la-prueba-digital-sino-demostrar-que-es-fiable-y-licita/> . Digital evidence has become central to any proceedings; it must meet the requirements of validity.
- The Digital Rights Tour in Zaragoza calls for the application of human rights in the digital environment. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/la-gira-de-derechos-digitales-en-zaragoza-reclama-la-aplicacion-de-los-derechos-humanos-en-el-entorno-digital/>. Human rights must be adapted to the digital environment to ensure the correct application of the EU Digital Rights Charter
- The Spanish Bar creates an Advisory Council on Innovation, Advocacy and Digital Justice. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/la-abogacia-crea-un-consejo-asesor-sobre-innovacion-abogacia-y-justicia-digital/>. With a view to leading the digitisation of justice and analysing the technological changes that are taking place. The Advisory Council is currently drawing up its strategic plan.

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

At the opening of the 5th Congress on Commercial and Insolvency Law, the president of the Spanish Bar, Salvador González, called for control and transparency in the appointment of insolvency administrators so that the Public Insolvency Register is 'transparent, agile and reliable'.

'We advocate that the appointment system be organised on a provincial rotation basis, to avoid inequalities and ensure efficiency in the distribution of workloads; that responsibility for the payment of registration fees be clarified, so that it does not fall unduly on the insolvency administration,' said González at the opening of the 5th Commercial and Insolvency Law Congress in Toledo.

González explained that these proposals form part of the observations made by the Bar, through its Commercial and Insolvency Law subcommittee, on the Draft Royal Decree implementing the Public Insolvency Register:

'These proposals seek to ensure a transparent, agile and reliable Register that provides comprehensive information on registered professionals, facilitates objective appointment and strengthens confidence in the system.'

The Bar has also made observations on the Draft Royal Decree approving the Insolvency Statistics Regulation, such as 'the need to measure such relevant aspects as the credit recovery rate, the average cost of proceedings, the effectiveness of restructuring plans, the impact of second chances on entrepreneurs, and the incidence of gender and disability factors in insolvency proceedings,' González said.

'We also ask that Spain not wait until 2027 - when the European Commission approves the common statistical model - to begin collecting information, but rather that it adopt its own rigorous system now that will allow it to detect malfunctions and improve insolvency practice,' said the president of the Bar.

González also emphasised in his speech the legal profession's commitment 'to the rule of law, legal certainty and the protection of our country's business and economic fabric'.

He also highlighted the role of lawyers in insolvency proceedings: "We are the ones who guide companies and individuals in times of great legal and financial uncertainty. We are indispensable in conflict prevention and insolvency administration. And we are also - from our practical experience - the ones who detect regulatory gaps, jurisprudential inconsistencies and tensions between legal certainty and the market economy."

The Bar calls for control and transparency in the appointment of insolvency administrators - Spanish Bar

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

The president of the Bar meets with the president of the High Court of Justice and the senior public prosecutor of Murcia to seek solutions to the situation of justice in the region. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/el-presidente-de-la-abogacia-se-reune-con-el-presidente-del-tsj-y-el-fiscal-superior-de-justicia-de-murcia-para-buscar-soluciones-a-la-situacion-de-la-justicia-en-la-region/>. Need to adopt immediate measures to reverse the deterioration that has been occurring for years in the functioning of the various judicial bodies in Murcia, where delays in the resolution of cases have increased considerably.

· The number of cases resolved in the judicial bodies increases by 4% in the second quarter of 2025. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/el-numero-de-asuntos-resueltos-en-los-organos-judiciales-aumenta-un-4-en-el-segundo-trimestre-de-2025/>. (Slight improvement in efficiency - prior to the strike).

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

[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

[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

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

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

- Unión Profesional will create a Special Commission to study how to prevent and address large-scale natural disasters (news also related to the suspension of court deadlines for these reasons). <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/union-profesional-creara-una-comision-especial-frente-a-los-desastres-naturales-de-gran-magnitud/>

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

The CGAE has endorsed a statement by Unión Profesional on the regulated professions in relation to Venezuela. held its Human Rights Congress in collaboration with its 'Law and Human Rights Foundation' focused on the protection of human rights defenders, and attended the trial of the former dean of Istanbul, continuing its work within the framework of the International Observatory for Lawyers at Risk (OIAD)

<https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/la-abogacia-comparte-el-comunicado-de-union-profesional-ante-la-situacion-actual-en-venezuela/>

The Spanish Bar presents its Carlos Carnicer Human Rights Awards dedicated to protecting defence lawyers – Spanish Bar

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

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

The president of the Spanish Bar, Salvador González, has held his first institutional meeting with the Spanish Ombudsman, Ángel Gabilondo.

During the meeting, both expressed their willingness to strengthen and expand the channels of cooperation between the two institutions, especially in the protection of the most vulnerable groups. At the meeting, the

president of the Council informed the Ombudsman about various activities being carried out in the area of fundamental rights, the defence of which is of common interest to both institutions. They also exchanged views on the implementation of Organic Law 1/2025 of 2 January on measures to improve the efficiency of the public justice service. They also addressed issues central to the rule of law, such as the situation of justice, the guarantee of human rights and effective access to judicial protection. They exchanged views on current challenges of particular relevance to citizens and professionals: the digitisation of the administration of justice, the fight against gender violence, care for migrants and asylum seekers, and the need to ensure the right to defence in a context of increasing social and regulatory complexity. The Ombudsman was particularly interested in the legal assistance offered to migrants by specialised duty lawyers. In its latest annual report, corresponding to the year 2024, the Ombudsman highlighted the work carried out by the General Council of Spanish Lawyers and the Bar Associations to offer legal assistance to migrants arriving in the Canary Islands. <https://www.abogacia.es/actualidad/noticias/salvador-gonzalez-presidente-de-la-abogacia-espanola-y-angel-gabilondo-defensor-del-pueblo-mantienen-su-primer-encuentro-institucional/>

The CGAE collaborates extensively with the CCBE, the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe. In particular, currently, two Spaniards chair the Migration and Criminal Law Committees.

- The Migration Committee has produced a guide for lawyers on the new migration and asylum pact. https://www.ccbe.eu/fileadmin/speciality_distribution/public/documents/MIGRATION/MIG_Position_papers/EN_MIG_20251127_CCBE-Guide-for-lawyers-on-the-New-Pact-on-Migration-and-Asylum.pdf. A Spanish version produced by CGAE will be available soon.

- The Criminal Law Committee is making important contributions to the culture of the rule of law, for example through its participation in the High Level Forum on the future of criminal justice in the EU. And indeed: obviously if this is still part clearly of a national contribution to the RoL report, it is because European law is also national law.

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

- The interoperability of the Justice systems with those of other Member States to facilitate cross-border litigation. There is a need to ensure that Spanish digitisation is compatible with European and other national laws and standards.
- Risks to the rule of law and the proper functioning of justice due to the adaptation of each legal AI to the

requirements of the AI Act, as well as potential divergences in national implementation.

- Divergences within the EU national legal systems on whether ADRs should be mandatory or not and on their regulation (for example some regions or common territories do not cover at national level advise to reach agreements -ADR- which is covered by Directive 2003/8 for crossborder cases -thus for EU citizens-.

Supporting document upload

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

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Contact

rule-of-law-network@ec.europa.eu