

# 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*

LIBERA associazioni nomi e numeri contro le mafie

Main Areas of Work

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

If "Other", please specify

prevention, civic monitoring, serious organised crime and mafia-type groups

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

*500 character(s) maximum*

www.libera.it

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

431647050754-69

## \* 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

monica

Surname

usai

Email Address of the organisation

international@libera.it

### \* 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*

Across several EU Member States, organised crime and corruption continue to represent a structural threat to the rule of law, increasingly characterised by transnational operations, financial sophistication, and infiltration of the legal economy. These trends, repeatedly highlighted in recent EU Rule of Law Reports, are particularly visible in sectors such as public procurement, infrastructure, logistics, waste management, and the agri-food chain. While judicial cooperation at EU level has improved, challenges persist in ensuring consistent implementation of anti-corruption measures, effective asset recovery, transparency of public spending, and adequate protection for civil society actors and journalists.

The establishment and operational strengthening of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) represents a significant positive development in the fight against fraud, corruption, and serious cross-border crime affecting the EU's financial interests. However, its effectiveness depends on strong cooperation with national judicial authorities, timely access to data, and a broader ecosystem of prevention and civic oversight at national and local level. In several Member States, gaps remain in translating EPPO investigations into systemic reforms addressing the structural conditions enabling organised crime and corruption.

Libera contributes to the rule of law by combining prevention, civic education, monitoring, and advocacy at national and European level. Through its work on civic monitoring of public spending and confiscated assets, support to victims of organised crime, and participation in transnational civil society networks, Libera complements institutional action by EPPO and national authorities like ANAC. The campaign Open Olympics, centered on the community-based monitoring approach, demonstrates this approach.

## 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<sup>[3]</sup>. 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.

<sup>[3]</sup> 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*

From the perspective of Libera, no substantial or structural follow-up has been adopted to address the concerns raised in the 2025 Rule of Law Report regarding the justice system. On the contrary, several recent legislative and policy choices risk weakening safeguards related to judicial independence, accountability and effectiveness.

In particular, Libera notes a lack of measures aimed at strengthening the independence of the judiciary and prosecution services, as well as insufficient investment in human and material resources. At the same time, public discourse and institutional narratives increasingly portray judicial oversight as an obstacle rather than a pillar of democratic governance, contributing to a climate of delegitimisation.

### 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*

Libera observes no reforms aimed at reinforcing merit-based, transparent and independent appointment procedures. Public debate has increasingly focused on proposals that risk politicising appointments or reducing the autonomy of judicial self-governing bodies. These dynamics raise concerns regarding compliance with European standards on judicial independence.

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*

No positive developments have been recorded. Proposals linked to judicial reorganisation and disciplinary reforms risk indirectly affecting irremovability guarantees, especially when combined with increased executive influence over careers and transfers.

Promotion of judges and prosecutors (incl. judicial review)

*5000 character(s) maximum*

Libera notes persistent concerns regarding the potential impact of performance-based evaluation mechanisms that are not sufficiently shielded from political or administrative interference. No safeguards have been strengthened to ensure promotions remain exclusively merit-based and insulated from external pressure.

## Allocation of cases in courts

*5000 character(s) maximum*

While formal rules on random allocation remain in place, concerns persist regarding the lack of full transparency and public accessibility of allocation criteria, especially in sensitive cases involving corruption, organised crime and public officials.

## 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*

Libera reiterates concerns about ongoing debates and reforms that risk weakening the role, composition and powers of the Council for the Judiciary. Any reform reducing its autonomy or increasing political influence would represent a serious setback for the rule of law.

## 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*

Libera stresses that accountability mechanisms must not be transformed into tools of intimidation. Recent public narratives and proposals risk conflating accountability with political control, undermining judicial independence.

## Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*5000 character(s) maximum*

The abolition of certain corruption-related offences and limitations on investigative tools (e.g. interceptions) indirectly affect prosecutorial autonomy and effectiveness, particularly in complex corruption and organised crime cases.

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

*5000 character(s) maximum*

Libera notes no significant measures aimed at strengthening the independence and protection of lawyers, especially those involved in sensitive cases related to corruption, organised crime or whistleblower defence.

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

*5000 character(s) maximum*

Public trust in the judiciary has been negatively affected by recurring institutional attacks, polarising political discourse and reforms perceived as weakening checks and balances.

## 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*

Barriers remain, particularly for vulnerable groups, due to legal costs, uneven access to legal aid and linguistic obstacles for non-native speakers. No significant improvements have been introduced.

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*

Libera highlights persistent underinvestment in human and material resources, affecting courts and prosecution offices, especially in territories with high levels of organised crime and corruption risks.

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

*5000 character(s) maximum*

Training on corruption, organised crime, financial crimes and EU law remains insufficient and unevenly distributed. There is limited investment in interdisciplinary and continuous training.

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*

Digitalisation efforts remain fragmented. While some tools are in place, there is no comprehensive strategy ensuring transparency, accessibility, and adequate safeguards against the misuse of digital or AI-based tools.

In the context of the Milano–Cortina Olympic Games, a digital monitoring system (e.g. the SIMICO platform) has been developed; however, it does not interface with other digital or non-digital monitoring systems currently in use. This platform is intended to serve as a model for future major infrastructure projects or large-scale events, particularly for monitoring anti-mafia interdiction measures. The lack of interoperability between systems creates a significant gap, weakening overall oversight and effectiveness.

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*

The use of monitoring and evaluation tools lacks transparency and meaningful involvement of independent bodies and civil society.

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*

Libera notes insufficient specialisation of courts and chambers dealing with corruption and economic crimes, limiting effectiveness in complex cases.

**[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*

While ADR mechanisms exist, their accessibility and effectiveness vary significantly, and training of judges in complex commercial and cross-border cases remains limited.

## C. Efficiency of the justice system

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

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

*5000 character(s) maximum*

No significant structural reforms have been introduced to address the length of proceedings and systemic backlogs, particularly in corruption and economic crime cases, where delays risk leading to limitation and

impunity.

## Any other developments related to the justice system - please specify

5000 character(s) maximum

Libera highlights the increasing gap between legal reforms and social justice outcomes, with reforms often prioritising speed and discretion in controls and procedures over transparency and accountability.

## 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

Libera observes an overall weakening of the anti-corruption framework. Measures adopted since 2025 have not strengthened prevention, detection or sanctioning, but rather reduced the scope of criminalisation and oversight. Hopefully the new directive will address a European strategy to push it.

### 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

The abolition of the offence of abuse of office, restrictions on investigative tools and reduced oversight powers of independent authorities have weakened institutional capacity to fight corruption. Cooperation with EPPO and OLAF remains formally in place but risks being undermined by domestic legal constraints. During the last years, we've reported cases of opacity related to NRP projects to EPPO. At the same time, we've worked with ANAC on the whistleblowing topic, at the light of the new EU Directive, sharing competences and know how.

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

*5000 character(s) maximum*

Safeguards for the independence of anti-corruption authorities and oversight bodies have not been strengthened. On the contrary, limitations on powers and resources reduce their effectiveness. In 2026, ANAC will renew its leadership and actually no discussions are prioritized.

## 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*

Italy lacks an updated, coherent and measurable national anti-corruption strategy with clear indicators and targets. The legal framework is affected by extraordinary measures as - decree law or similars, or public spending and decision making processes -. So formally the ordinary legal framework remains untouched, but the substance change.

## 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*

No comprehensive reform has been adopted to regulate conflicts of interest, revolving doors or lobbying, especially for high-level officials.

### 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*

Libera reiterates concerns about the absence of a binding lobbying regulation, stalled implementation of beneficial ownership registers and insufficient transparency in political financing.

### 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*

The absence of a general conflict-of-interest law remains a major structural gap, particularly after the repeal of abuse of office.

--> 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*

Despite formal transposition of EU rules, practical implementation remains weak. Civil society services such as Linea Libera continue to fill institutional gaps in support and protection of potential whistleblowers or case of retaliation. We've worked with ANAC on the project "Open the whistle", for the promotion of the whistleblowing system at the light of the Open Government approach. The handbook of the project is attached.

***[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*

Public procurement, urban planning, large infrastructure projects and EU fund management remain highly exposed to corruption and organised crime infiltration, exacerbated by increased discretion and reduced controls.

We've specifically worked for the transparency of the organisation and public spending related to Milano Cortina Olympics and Paralympics winter Games, through the "Open Olympics" campaign. We've asked the respect of the right to know and complete/updated open data. In the specific case of Open Olympics, the campaign provided the only open data available till today on the event. Reports annexed.

**[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*

Permitting procedures in construction, environment and energy sectors remain vulnerable due to opacity and discretionary decision-making.

## C. Repression

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

*5000 character(s) maximum*

Recent legislative changes have reduced the deterrent effect of criminal law against corruption and related offences - nowadays criminalisation of youth and movements is an ongoing measure of attack right-based approach of not only civic society organisation but also of a prevention system framework based on the promotion of culture of inclusion and restorative measure not as punishment but regeneration of youth lives - e.g. Caivano Decree and Security Decree

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*

Publicly available data confirm a risk of under-detection and under-prosecution, particularly in high-level and complex corruption cases.  
EPPO annual reports are completely dedicated to these topics.

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*

Major obstacles include reduced investigative tools, limitation period, political immunity dynamics and difficulties in cross-border cooperation. The lack of data available and transparent due the extraordinary mechanism ongoing avoid the civic monitoring action.

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*

the role of civic monitoring to investigate and disseminate informatives keep its centrality and we need to foster it

### 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

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*

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*

#### **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

**f518dce1-c2cb-4d60-9d3b-d573090eedb9/ITA\_WHIT-toolkit-1\_compressed.pdf**

**d58d7cb6-528b-4432-af7d-aef86ccfaf12/report\_2\_open\_olympics2026\_v\_12\_02\_2025\_compressed.pdf**

**46e91fa8-49e6-41aa-a228-8e951ec4066c/report\_3\_dicembre\_2025\_compressed.pdf**

## Contact

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