

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

General Prosecutors Office

Main Areas of Work

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

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

500 character(s) maximum

<https://www.mpublic.ro/>

Transparency register number

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

* Country of origin

Please indicate the country of origin of your organisation

- ☐ Austria

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

First name

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Surname

Popescu

Email Address of the organisation

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* Publication of your contribution and privacy settings

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

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 Organisation name, URL, transparency register number, first name and surname given above will not be published.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- ☐ No publication - Your contribution will not be published.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

☒ I agree with the personal data protection provisions.

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

Questions on horizontal developments

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

Overview topics for contribution

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

Please provide any relevant information on horizontal developments here

5000 character(s) maximum

Questions for contribution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I. Justice System

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

5000 character(s) maximum

A. Independence

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

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

5000 character(s) maximum

By Emergency Ordinance (OUG) no. 93/2025, different amendments to the justice laws were adopted. Thus, one of the amendments is that the duration of the training courses for trainee magistrates (justice auditors) admitted to the National Institute of Magistracy in 2026 will be 2 years (compared to 3 years in the initial version of the law).

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

By OUG. no. 93/2025, the entry into force of the provisions of Law no. 303/2022 regarding the on-the-spot promotion competition or exam at courts and prosecutors' offices was postponed until 31.12.2026. Therefore, in 2026, no on-the-spot promotion contests will be organized. Also, the provisions regarding the calculation of seniority without taking into account the period during which the judge or prosecutor held the position of justice auditor (trainee), in the case of exams, competitions or selection procedures, enter into force on 1 January 2027. Until this date, the calculation of seniority provided for by this law shall take into account the period during which the judge or prosecutor held the position of justice auditor (trainee).

Allocation of cases in courts

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

5000 character(s) maximum

At the level of primary legislation, there have been no changes regarding the status of prosecutors that would affect their functional independence.

However, there have been substantial changes to the legislation regarding the retirement conditions of prosecutors, changes that could affect their independence in terms of an intrinsic element of the prosecutors' magistrate status.

On 29.08.2025, the Government using an accelerated procedure of committing itself to Parliament's responsibility for the draft Law for the amendment and completion of certain laws in the field of service pensions, a draft law that aimed to radically change the retirement regime of judges and prosecutors.

There were no consultations of the judiciary for this revision. The draft was not even sent for consultation to the institutions of the judiciary before being made public in a press conference on July 29, 2025. On August 22, 2025, the Ministry of Labor requested the opinion of the Supreme Council of Magistracy, but despite the legal deadline of 30 days for a response, the Government ignored this, and 7 days later, on August 29, 2025, it sent the law to Parliament, which adopted it on September 4, 2025, using an urgent procedure for assuming the responsibility of the Government.

The law was challenged before the Constitutional Court by the High Court of Cassation and Justice, and by Decision no. 479 of 20.10.2025, the Constitutional Court admitted the objection of unconstitutionality and found that the Law in the field of service pensions as a whole is unconstitutional, the main reason for admitting the objection being the lack of the opinion of the Superior Council of Magistracy.

Subsequently, on 02.12.2025, the Romanian Government once again committed itself to Parliament's responsibility for the draft Law amending and supplementing certain normative acts in the field of service pensions, which has an almost identical form to that of the previous draft. Currently, it is before the Constitutional Court, for the a priori control of constitutionality, following the notification formulated by the High Court of Cassation and Justice, the settlement deadline being 11.02.2026.

We note that at no time was the government available for an institutional dialogue regarding the content of the law and especially regarding the substantive vulnerabilities mentioned in the objection of unconstitutionality submitted by the High Court of Cassation and Justice. The consultation was treated as a mere formality - waiting for a specified time for the SCM's opinion, but with a public statement of the intention to completely ignore that opinion, as an institutional dialogue on issues related to social equity is not justified.

One can thus note a constant forceful approach of the Executive against the Judiciary, given that the institutions of the judicial system were not only not included in the institutional dialogue to amend the statute of magistrates, but the mandatory procedure for obtaining the SCM's opinion was either completely ignored or only formally checked.

It should also be noted that the revision of the pension system for the judiciary — age, seniority requirements, pension formula — had already been fully resolved by Law no. 282/2023, adopted in consultation with both the judiciary and the European Commission in the context of Romania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan. Currently, according to Law no. 282/2023, the retirement age of magistrates has already been increased to 60 years, with a transition period that regulates the gradual increase of this period for some generations of magistrates in office.

As for the amount of the service pension, it has been reduced to 55% of the calculation base represented by the average of the gross monthly employment allowances and the permanent increases had in the last 60 months of activity, without being able to exceed 70% of the net income had in the last month of activity.

There are approximately 4,000 magistrates who will meet the retirement conditions established by the transitional formula in Law No. 282/2023. Of these, approximately 1,600 fall into the category for which the transitional scheme under Law No. 282/2023, although applicable, effectively pushes the retirement age to

between 58–60 years, depending on the individual situation of each person, making the transitional period practically irrelevant.

The Government also justified its legislative intervention by wrongly claiming that the European Commission's assessment of March 2025, which concluded that Milestone 215 was no longer being satisfactorily fulfilled, was the consequence of the retirement conditions for magistrates. This claim is manifestly erroneous, given that the Commission did not take into account the retirement conditions of magistrates, but focused exclusively on a technical issue, namely Decision No. 724 of the Constitutional Court of 19 December 2024.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

During 2025, the Romanian judiciary faced an unprecedented campaign of defamation maintained by the politicians, in the context of the drafting and adoption of the law on the modification of the magistrate's status in the components relating to the amount of the pension and the retirement age.

In this context, an atmosphere of public hatred towards magistrates was artificially generated, through public statements by politicians from the parties forming the governing coalition, leading to the demonization of magistrates for the fact that they benefit from competitive salaries and advantageous retirement conditions, specific to their professional status and in accordance with European standards in the matter.

This campaign flagrantly defied any acceptable limit in a state governed by the rule of law: calls for the public execution of magistrates were promoted, explicitly or by insinuation, and contexts were created that encouraged verbal and physical aggression against magistrates by citizens periodically subjected to this particularly virulent campaign of denigration.

The General Prosecutors Office has received several complaints regarding the crime of public incitement provided for in Article 368 of the Criminal Code, concerning several public messages through which social media users incited the commission of serious crimes against magistrates and their family members.

Also, a deputy Prime Minister publicly stated that magistrates take money from „children's mouths”, and the magistrate's status in the component related to the pension is similar to a „Caritas” pyramid system - this system being one in Romanian history that robbed the population's savings and was criminally sanctioned.

The constant debate of the status of magistrates and the public discourse to discredit the judicial system are real reasons that affect the organizational climate and decrease the attractiveness of the profession on a longer term. For instance, in 2025, there were resignations from the position of prosecutor, of some young prosecutors who had recently entered the profession, a situation that the judicial system had not faced in the past.

Thus, amid public emotion maintained including by organizing coordinated protests on social media, the Government of Romania, without resorting to an initial institutional dialogue, through Decision 574/19.12.2025 of the Prime Minister of Romania, established the “Committee for the Analysis and Revision of Justice Legislation”. The Committee is composed of representatives of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Justice.

Although the declared objective of this Committee is to revise justice legislation, its composition does not include the Superior Council of Magistracy as a permanent participant, nor representatives of other fundamental institutions of the judicial system, namely the High Court of Cassation and Justice or the General Prosecutor's Office. Representatives of the judicial system may participate only as guests, exclusively at the invitation of the Prime Minister (art. 1 para. 4 of the Decision).

The Committee's work is intended to start from the debate of the opinions formulated primarily by NGOs,

regarding the organization and functioning of justice and the achievement of the act of justice (art. 3 letter b). In this way, the Decision establishes an unbalanced framework, which offers a significantly greater weight to the governmental and non-governmental factors, with the decreased institutional role and perspective of the Judiciary in this decision making process.

The Decision also creates the premises for circumventing the legislative procedure provided for by the legal norms in force, given that art. 5 para. 2 provides for the communication of recommendations directly to the competent authorities, in order to initiate draft normative acts or the administrative measures necessary for their implementation. Thus, the recommendations of a Committee without a basis in primary legislation regarding the functioning of justice or the legislative procedure, once filtered by the Prime Minister, may create an obligation for public authorities to initiate legislative amendments in the sense indicated by Prime Minister.

This type of drafting amendments to the legal framework is clearly infringing the Venice Commission advise on Romanian Judiciary laws - excluding the main judicial agencies and the Committee for Strategic Management from the dialogue and washing away the need for all the main actors from both state powers to collaborate in a spirit of loyal cooperation in order to ensure the proper application of the laws of justice.

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

In April 2025, an additional act was drawn up to the Protocol concluded between the Ministry of Justice, the National Union of Bars and the Public Ministry (GPO) regarding the establishment of the fees of lawyers who provide legal assistance ex officio, based on art. 84 of Law no. 51/1995. The additional act indexed the fees with the consumer price index for the period May 2024 - February 2025.

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

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

5000 character(s) maximum

The year 2025 was characterized by a slight improvement in the degree of occupation of vacant prosecutor positions. Thus, at the end of 2024, the degree of occupation of the prosecutor scheme at the level of the Public Ministry was 75.65%, and at the end of 2025 it increased to 76.28%.

During 2025, 75 prosecutors retired, but 119 positions were occupied, of which 95 by trainee prosecutors. In 2025, the provisions of the new justice laws were further applied, so that contests for appointment to management positions and an effective promotion contest to regular positions were organized, as well as interviews for the appointment of prosecutors within the Directorate for the Investigation of Organized Crime and Terrorism Offenses (DIICOT) and the National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA).

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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

5000 character(s) maximum

Examples:

- eCheltuieli

The eCheltuieli is a multi-institutional information system, intended for the unified, automatic and transparent management of judicial expenses advanced by the state within the framework of criminal prosecution activity. The application ensures the standardization of processes, complete traceability of data and the streamlining of associated administrative activities.

The application manages the main categories of judicial expenses, including expenses for criminal prosecution acts, the administration and preservation of evidence, amounts due to witnesses, as well as other types of expenses related to criminal proceedings.

The application is used at national level by both the units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and all units of the Public Ministry, including DIICOT, DNA and Military Prosecutors' Offices. Currently, over 15,000 active users are registered, and the application has been used to generate annexes related to over 105,000 files.

- SMD - ELO

Optimizing the activity of the Public Ministry involves the implementation of concrete measures to streamline, simplify and digitize administrative circuits, in order to increase operational efficiency and reduce administrative burdens.

In this context, an essential role was played by the expansion of the Document Management Information System (ELO), a secure portal designed to manage administrative and documentary flows. During this process, the ELO platform was improved by implementing new functionalities and by integrating with other IT systems used at the institutional level, including the national e-Invoice platform and internal electronic registers. These developments allow the automation of document flows, the elimination of redundant operations, as well as the provision of a unified and updated electronic record.

- Internal Portal

The internal portal has been expanded and improved by implementing new functionalities, with the aim of optimizing the support provided to prosecutors in their current activity. The platform provides easy and centralized access to essential information and resources, such as materials and data relevant to the investigation of crimes in priority areas.

As part of this effort, modules such as the ticketing module, intended for the management and monitoring of requests submitted by users, as well as reporting components, which allow the centralization and analysis of information regarding the use of the platform and the typology of requests, have been activated. These new functionalities contribute to increasing the degree of transparency, efficiency and traceability in the relationship between users and support structures.

- VoIP - Integrated digital VoIP telephony system

The Public Ministry has implemented an integrated digital VoIP telephony system for approximately 4,200 users. The project aimed at providing and putting into operation the equipment, licenses and services necessary for the implementation of the IP telephony system, within the project "VoIP telephony system implemented at national level for the PÎCCJ and subordinate prosecutor's offices", financed by the National

Recovery and Resilience Plan.

The implemented VoIP system ensures a high level of security of internal communications, significantly reducing the risks of unauthorized access. At the same time, advanced security, monitoring and analysis functionalities have been put into operation, which allow the detection, prevention and signaling of unauthorized access attempts to VoIP services.

- EXTESSMERI - Technological expansion and security of the electronic messaging solution on the internet

As part of the process of modernizing the information system of the Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice and of the subordinate prosecutor's office units, it was necessary to expand the Microsoft Active Directory service at national level and integrate it with the Microsoft Exchange Server electronic messaging solution, in order to ensure the unified and secure operation of the implemented or currently being implemented information systems.

The acquisition of technical equipment related to this initiative falls under Component 7 – Digital Transformation, Investment 4 – Digitalization of the Judicial System and Milestone 165 – Digitalization of central public authorities in the judicial sector. As a result of the implementation of this infrastructure, security policies, data access mechanisms and the degree of interoperability between the Public Ministry's IT systems have been improved.

Also, a portal-type integration hub was created, designed to facilitate secure and controlled access to IT resources and data exchange between the Public Ministry's networks, ensuring system interoperability and a unified level of authentication, authorization and access monitoring.

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

1. Enhancing the WAN Communications System at Prosecutors' Offices (completed December 2025)
Modernized the WAN communications infrastructure across prosecutors' offices. Link
2. Strengthening Judicial System Resilience through IT Infrastructure Modernization (ongoing until April 2026)
Upgrades IT infrastructure at central and local levels, consolidating the Public Ministry.
3. Structured Cabling of the General Prosecutor's Office Headquarters (ongoing until April 2026)
Improves institutional digital infrastructure and supports judicial sector digitalization.
4. Replacement of Analogue Telephony with Integrated VoIP System (completed January 2026)
Replaces the analogue system with VoIP, modernizing internal digital communications.
5. Technological Expansion and Security Enhancement of Electronic Messaging (ongoing until June 2026)
Strengthens digital communications.
6. Setting Up and Equipping New Data Rooms at the General Prosecutor's Office Headquarters (ongoing until April 2026)
Consolidates ICT infrastructure into a modernized technical environment.
7. Partnership with the Ministry of Justice on ECRIS V Case Management System (ongoing until June 2026)
Supports the operationalization of the electronic case management system, a core component of judicial digital transformation.

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

In a view to remedy the shortcomings generated by the large number of vacant prosecutor positions, the solution identified at the level of the Public Ministry (GPO), in agreement with the Superior Council of Magistracy, is the reformation of the administrative map of prosecutors' offices/services, by establishing a single prosecutor's office at county level attached to the courts, headquartered in the county seat, and transforming the other prosecutor's offices/services attached to the courts in the respective county into secondary offices.

The reorganization has the following advantages:

- the background for specialization of prosecutors and the creation of a unitary practice are created;
- will generate a positive financial impact as a result of the savings achieved by reducing payroll costs (several leading positions of prosecutors and clerks will be transformed into executive positions: 118 prosecutor positions and 129 clerk positions), the reduction or even elimination of costs generated by the delegation of personnel (per diem, transportation, accommodation), the decrease in long-term costs as a result of minimizing investments in the infrastructure related to secondary offices;
- the levers are created for personnel issues to be managed at the level of prosecutors' offices attached to courts, with hierarchically superior prosecutors' offices focusing on complex cases within their own competence (the current solution of taking over the entire activity of a subordinate unit by the prosecutor's office attached to the tribunal leads to an excessive workload for prosecutors' offices attached to the tribunal, with prosecutors in these prosecutors' offices not having the necessary time to manage complex cases within their competence: tax evasion, murder, corruption, computer crime, etc.);
- the background for greater staff mobility are created, with flexible mechanisms to adjust the staffing scheme being provided, without affecting the stability of prosecutors, and for situations requiring urgent intervention, mechanisms will be provided for prosecutors from other secondary offices to take over the workload;
- it leads to a balancing of the workload of prosecutors, with the consequence of increasing the speed of resolving cases, the quality of criminal prosecution documents, the efficiency of criminal prosecution, all of which contribute to the delivery of quality public services to the litigants;
- provides content to the management function; also, being relieved of time-consuming managerial activity, prosecutors from secondary offices will be able to manage the activities related to execution functions much more efficiently;

Regarding the status of the proposals for reconfiguring the map of prosecutors' offices, by the Decision of the Strategic Management Committee of 04.11.2025 a deadline was established for the public debate of a draft normative act regarding the reorganization of prosecutors' offices attached to courts, namely 31.01.2026.

[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

Entry into force on 01.01.2025 of the Joint Order of the Prosecutor General of the GPO and the Ministry of Internal Affairs no. 289/20.12.2024 for the approval of the Methodological Norms regarding the registration, unitary records, and the circuit of criminal notifications.

The joint order establishes new rules regarding the registration and circuit of criminal notifications, intended to ensure a much more efficient administrative sorting of petitions/notifications/complaints and thus avoid overloading the criminal prosecution agencies.

- Drafting the Guidance of 20.01.2025, which provided the prosecutor's offices with clear recommendations regarding the administrative filtering of complaints, in order to avoid unnecessary overloading of the criminal investigation bodies.

The measures adopted produced concrete consequences in the activity of the Public Ministry. For the first time in the last decade, in 2025 the growth of the backlog of cases to be resolved was stopped, registering a decrease of 1.6% compared to the previous year.

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

By Decision no. 8/2025 of the High Court of Cassation and Justice – Panel for solving recourse in the interest of the law, it was established that the judicial police officers within the General Anticorruption Directorate (DGA) have the competence to carry out, by delegation, under the conditions provided by law, the criminal investigation acts ordered by the competent prosecutor exclusively in cases concerning the offenses provided for in art. 1 para. (2) of OUG no. 120/2005.

Thus, the possibility for prosecutors to delegate to specialized police officers within the DGA the investigative acts in corruption cases concerning categories of persons other than Home Affairs personnel was eliminated.

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

Legislative measures have been taken to strengthen integrity in the exercise of public functions. Thus, by Law no. 189/2025, the internal framework on integrity in public functions and dignities, namely Law no. 176/2010, was amended. Among other, clarifications were adopted regarding the restrictions and prohibitions applicable

to persons holding public functions (revolving doors). For example, Chapter III: Pre- and post-employment restrictions in public institutions and authorities was introduced in Law no. 176/2010. The Administrative Code (art. 230/1) was amended accordingly.

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

By decision of the Constitutional Court no. 297/2025, it was established that the provisions of art. 3 paragraph (2) of Law no. 176/2010 on integrity in the exercise of public functions and dignities are constitutional to the extent that they do not also refer to the rights and obligations of the declarant's spouse, as well as of the adult children in his/her care.

It was also found by the Constitutional Court that the provisions of art. 6 paragraph (1) letter d) and art. 12 paragraph (6) of Law no. 176/2010 on integrity in the exercise of public functions and dignities are unconstitutional (publication of declarations of assets and interests).

The Court stressed, in its decision, that it is necessary to develop updated legislation that is in line with the evolution of society, determining the scope of persons obliged to file a declaration of assets and interests, while maintaining the aims and objectives that Parliament will establish. Given that the phenomenon of corruption and its associated practices at the political, bureaucratic and administrative levels must continue to be prevented and combated, the legislator has the obligation to develop an efficient regulatory framework that allows for the fulfillment of the integrity standards specific to a state governed by the rule of law. In this regard, the Court stresses the need to systematize and codify the legislation in the field and to develop and adopt a Code of integrity and transparency in the exercise of public functions.

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

Law No. 87/2025 amended Law No. 361/2022 on the protection of whistleblowers (in the public interest), extending the provisions to areas such as money laundering, cryptocurrencies, and insurance/reinsurance.

[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

Law No. 156/2025 amended Law No. 319/2024 on establishing measures for the implementation of the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, adopted in Paris on November 21, 1997.

Thus, changes were made in relation to the criminalization for certain offenses (art. 3), mitigating circumstances were introduced, investigative jurisdiction/competence was established, the confiscation of goods, valuables or money was provided for, and protective measures were provided for whistleblowers.

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

At the DNA level, 1,592 cases were resolved in 2025. Also, 114 indictments were issued and 253 plea agreements were concluded, so the courts were notified of 367 cases originating from the 213 files in which the case was referred to court/referred to the court. 792 defendants were sent to court, of which 539 defendants by indictment and 253 defendants by plea agreements.

Through the 114 indictments and 253 plea agreements (367 cases sent to the courts), in the 213 files in which the case was referred to court/referred to the court, 1,343 crimes were brought to trial, the structure of which is presented mainly as follows:

- 915 - crimes provided for in Law no. 78/2000, of which:
 - o 505 - corruption crimes (104 - bribery; 245 - bribery; 72 - influence peddling; 84 - buying influence - art. 61)
 - o 288 - crimes assimilated to corruption crimes (214 - abuse of office, in the qualified form provided for in art. 132; 62 - use of information not intended for publicity; 3 - blackmail; 2 - use of influence or authority; 4 - carrying out financial operations incompatible with the position; 3 - establishing a diminished value of assets)
 - o 122 - crimes against the financial interests of the European Communities
- 26 - crimes provided for in other special laws, of which:
 - o 10 - tax evasion
 - o 9 - money laundering.
 - 42 defendants out of the total number of those brought to trial are legal entities.
 - 122 crimes concerned the financial interests of the EU.
 - Statistical data are included in the annual activity reports of the GPO and the DNA, which are published on their websites. At the same time, the activity reports are submitted to the Minister of Justice in February each year.

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

status of limitation

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

The total value of the assets and amounts on which precautionary measures were instituted by the National Anticorruption Directorate in the cases in which the referral to court was ordered is over 192,000,000 lei. In these cases, the courts ordered the confiscation of a total amount of 16,754,985 euros and awarded compensation in a cumulative amount of 42,467,077 euros.

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

5000 character(s) maximum

By Decision no. 1/2025 of the High Court of Justice, it was established that in the unitary interpretation and application of art. 174 and art. 154 paragraph (2) of the Criminal Code, by the date of the commission of the offense and, implicitly, the date from which the limitation period for criminal liability begins to run in the case of single offenses provided for in art. 289-292 of the Criminal Code, in the event that several normative modalities of the material element are performed on different dates, the date of the first alternative modality is understood to be the date of the commission of the first alternative modality, regardless of the subsequent, subsequent performance of several alternative modalities of the content of the offense and regardless of the time interval that interposes between the date of the commission of the first alternative modality and the commission of another alternative modality or between the acts that make up the action characteristic of one of the normative modalities of committing the act, respectively the date of the commission of the first act in a succession of acts corresponding to a single normative modality.

Thus, in the corruption cases with alternative material elements within the content of a single corruption offence committed, the limitation period for criminal liability is shortened.

The Advocate General of the Court of Justice of the European Union published in December 2025 his conclusions recommending ways of solving the case C-280/25 (Lin II), concerning the limitation period for criminal liability.

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

Law enforcement agencies pay increased attention to the safety of journalists who submit information during protests and public demonstrations.
For example, on the night of March 9-10, 2025, a large number of people participated in a protest held in front of the headquarters of the Central Electoral Bureau, during which they threw blunt objects at law enforcement officers and overturned and damaged the vehicle belonging to a television station that was reporting on the events on the spot, the case being intensely publicized.
Following the investigations carried out, on 01.08.2025, 19 defendants were sent to trial under judicial control.

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

Contact

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