

Here is it, many thanks for inviting me to contribute:

The Rule of law is one of the core values of the European Union. Not only is it thus reflected in the Treaties, but it represents one of the fundamental common characteristics of Member States.

- The process of consolidating rule of law is a continuous one and takes into account new challenges. The dynamic nature of the process has to be addressed through reflection and interinstitutional debate.
- From this perspective, the Commission's Communication on 3 April 2019, which takes stock and looks back at experiences in this area over the past years is welcome. Building on this, one can envisage the development of new tools that could enforce the prevention dimension of rule of law.
- At the same time, the reflection may also well lead to unifying some of the existing instruments, including eliminating those mechanisms that only pertain to some of the Member States and addressing potential overlaps between instruments.
- The rule of law debate should also be contextualized, particularly at a moment where the European elections at the end of May reflected a growing opinion among citizens against a consolidated European project: ok, the populists and extremists did not score 1/3 as some feared, but they did score 1/4, rising from 1/5. Contained for the moment, but let us not give extra ammunition.
- The rule of law debate should not be transformed in a performance contest between Member State, with the European Commission acting as moderator. The end objective should be related to substance and to improving the rule of law framework.
- Taking into account these elements, particular attention should be given to the communication dimension of the process. The way we share the reflection with the citizens in Member States is a key to the initiative's success.