

Annual Rule of Law Report - Council of Europe contribution

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

2026

Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DG I)

Sweden

I Justice System

PACE

Monitoring committee

Sweden | [Doc. 16316](#)

The co-rapporteurs, Ms Yelizaveta Yasko (Ukraine, EPP/CD) and Ms Anne Stambach-Terrenoir (France, UEL), made a fact-finding visit to Stockholm from 22 to 24 April 2025. They met civil society organisations, government officials, and political parties in parliament.

In April 2025, the government introduced a Bill titled “Enhanced Protection for Democracy and the Independence of the Courts”. This proposal aimed to substantially reform Sweden’s constitutional amendment procedure and strengthen judicial independence to counter democratic backsliding observed in Europe. The constitutional amendment procedure would be made more stringent by requiring a qualified majority for all changes to Sweden’s fundamental laws (the Instrument of Government), rather than just the current simpler majority separated by an election.

The Bill also proposes judicial reforms to increase independence from political influence, such as creating a board composed mostly of current and former judges to oversee the court administration agency, excluding executive and legislative members. Permanent judges would be appointed following recommendations by a judges’ majority body and could only be removed upon reaching statutory retirement age. For the Supreme Court, the Bill mandates a set number of justices, with appointments made only after a request by the court itself.

Political consensus over the proposal has fragmented: initially, an all-party committee supported the Bill, but the Sweden Democrats opposed the proposals concerning the constitutional amendment procedure and submitted a motion to reject that part. On 21 October 2025, the Riksdag voted against the Sweden Democrats’ motion on whether to hold a referendum on the constitutional matter related to the Bill. The Riksdag then approved the government’s proposal to reform the constitutional amendment procedure. Political support mainly came from the government coalition parties (Moderate Party, Christian Democrats, Liberals) and opposition parties who favoured stronger democratic safeguards. The reforms are designed to enter into force on April 1, 2027, after confirmation by a second Riksdag vote following the 2026 elections.

Other major issues include ongoing concerns about security and crime, with the government emphasising policy actions against organised crime and public safety. Migration and integration policies continue to be a significant focus as they impact multiple policy areas. Sweden is also navigating its foreign policy challenges, particularly related to security tensions with Russia and its support for Ukraine in the context of the broader geopolitical confrontation.

The next general elections in Sweden are scheduled to take place on 13 September 2026. These elections will choose the 349 members of the Riksdag, who will in turn elect the prime minister. Regional and municipal elections will also be held concurrently on the same day. The co-rapporteurs will carry on their preparatory work in order to present a report to the Assembly after the next elections.

CEPEJ

The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) regularly collects data on judicial systems concerning efficiency and quality of the justice system. In the framework of the CEPEJ Study for the EU Justice Scoreboard, CEPEJ prepares Country profiles annually, including [Sweden](#).

The 2024 data have been collected, quality checked and sent to DG-JUST in the framework of the 2026 EU Justice Scoreboard. The publication of the country profiles based on 2024 data will depend on final acceptance of the CEPEJ Study by DG-JUST. The CEPEJ Secretariat (christel.schurrer@coe.int) remains at the disposal of European Commission for any question related to these data.

EXECUTION OF JUDGMENTS IN SWEDEN

Official statistics on the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights are published in the Committee of Ministers [Annual reports on the execution](#) (next edition to be published in March 2026). The CoE's Department for the Execution of Judgments can be consulted for any question on statistics: DGI-Execution@coe.int.

[Centrum for Rättvisa](#) (No. 35252/08) (enhanced supervision) was closed in 2025. The case concerned shortcomings of the Swedish bulk interception regime concerning : i) the absence of a clear rule on destroying intercepted material which did not contain personal data; ii) the absence of a requirement in the Signals Intelligence Act or other relevant legislation that, when making a decision to transmit intelligence material to foreign partners, consideration was given to the privacy interests of individuals; and iii) the absence of an effective *ex post facto* review. The Court highlighted the structural nature of the shortcomings concerning the latter issue.

Final Resolution : Resolution [CM/ResDH\(2025\)135](#)

II Anti-corruption framework

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In April, GRECO published an addendum to the second compliance report of its Fifth Evaluation Round on “Preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies”. GRECO concluded that Sweden had implemented satisfactorily or dealt with in a satisfactory manner eleven of the fifteen recommendations contained in the Fifth Evaluation Round report. Of the remaining recommendations, one has been partly implemented and three have not been implemented. This report terminated the fifth round compliance procedure with respect to Sweden. The perception among experts, citizens and business executives is that Sweden is one of the least corrupt countries in the world.

GRECO

[Addendum to the Second Compliance Report](#) (3 April 2025)

5th round: Preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies

III Media pluralism

N/A

IV Other institutional issues related to checks and balances

N/A