

# EUROPE'S BUDGET

## Strengthening the Rule of Law

JULY 2025

Respect for the rule of law will continue to be a must for all funds under the next long-term EU budget.

The combination of financial support for rule of law reforms together with the application of safeguards and conditionalities, will ensure that the EU budget is protected and used to strengthen democracy, rule of law, fundamental rights and Union values.

## Why is this a priority?

The rule of law is essential for Europe's democracy, security and economic stability. It ensures that rights are protected, corruption is punished and contracts are enforced. And it guarantees a stable and predictable environment for EU citizens and businesses.

## What is the Commission proposing?

Robust safeguards to ensure respect of the rule of law and fundamental rights

### NEXT MFF

#### National and Regional Partnership Plans

All plans must respect

Rule of law

+

EU Charter\*

Identified breaches must be addressed in a timely manner

if conditions are not met

Parts of payments can be suspended at any time

Member States need to continue payments to final beneficiaries

Amounts lost due to unresolved breaches may be reallocated to other programmes

#### Conditionality regulation

(continues to apply to the whole EU budget to protect it from breaches of the principles of rule of law)

\*covers political, social and economic rights and freedoms

## Strong incentives to uphold the rule of law and support civil society

- Strengthen the link between the recommendations in the Rule of Law Report and financial support under the EU budget.
- Include investments and reforms that boost institutional and civil society capacities in upholding the rule of law in the future National and Regional Partnership Plans.
- Ensure financial support for civil society organisations, simplifying funding processes when possible, reducing administrative burdens, and improving access through user-friendly digital tools.

