

2024 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, four editions of the Rule of Law Report have been published in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

The Commission would like to invite stakeholders to provide contributions to the 2024 Rule of Law Report. This survey provides information on the type of information and topics that will be covered in the 2024 Rule of Law Report, in order to allow stakeholders to provide input. More targeted input may be requested at a later stage of preparation of the 2024 Rule of Law Report, including in the context of country visits, or bilateral contacts.

The 2024 Rule of Law Report will continue to deepen the assessment under the existing four pillars, and will also follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations to Member States, that were issued as part of the 2023 Rule of Law Report. The contribution to be provided should include **(1) information on measures taken to implement the recommendations addressed to the Member State in the 2023 Rule of Law report, as well as developments with regard to the points raised in the respective country chapter and (2) any other significant developments since January 2023^[1] falling under the ‘type of information’ outlined in section II.**

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.

[1] Unless the information was already submitted in the input for the previous Rule of Law Reports.

Type of information

The topics are structured according to four pillars: I. Justice system; II. Anti-corruption framework; III. Media pluralism; and IV. Other institutional issues related to checks and balances. The replies could include aspects set out below under each pillar. This can include challenges, current work streams, positive developments and best practices:

A) Legislative developments

- Newly adopted legislation
- Legislative drafts currently discussed in Parliament
- Legislative plans envisaged by the Government

B) Policy developments

- Implementation 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, heads of independent authorities included in the scope of the questionnaire[2])

D) Any other relevant developments

- Respondents are free to add any further information, which they deem relevant; however, this should be short and to the point.

Please also indicate whether the developments reported are linked to the implementation of reforms and investments under the RRP, where applicable.

If there are no changes, it is sufficient to indicate this and the information covered in the contributions for the previous Rule of Law Reports should 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.

About you

* 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

Deutscher Richterbund

Main Areas of Work

- ☒ Justice System
- ☐ Anti-corruption
- ☐ Media Pluralism
- ☐ Other

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

500 character(s) maximum

www.drb.de

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

3644916703-20

* Country of origin

Please add the country of origin of your organisation

- ☐ Afghanistan
- ☐ Albania
- ☐ Algeria
- ☐ Andorra
- ☐ Angola
- ☐ Antigua and Barbuda
- ☐ Argentina
- ☐ Armenia
- ☐ Australia
- ☐ Austria
- ☐ Azerbaijan
- ☐ Bahamas
- ☐ Bahrain
- ☐ Bangladesh
- ☐ Barbados

- ☐ Belarus
- ☐ Belgium
- ☐ Belize
- ☐ Benin
- ☐ Bhutan
- ☐ Bolivia
- ☐ Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ☐ Botswana
- ☐ Brazil
- ☐ Brunei Darussalam
- ☐ Bulgaria
- ☐ Burkina Faso
- ☐ Burundi
- ☐ Cabo Verde
- ☐ Cambodia
- ☐ Cameroon
- ☐ Canada
- ☐ Central African Republic
- ☐ Chad
- ☐ Chile
- ☐ China
- ☐ Colombia
- ☐ Comoros
- ☐ Congo
- ☐ Costa Rica
- ☐ Côte D'Ivoire
- ☐ Croatia
- ☐ Cuba
- ☐ Cyprus
- ☐ Czechia
- ☐ Democratic Republic of the Congo
- ☐ Denmark
- ☐ Djibouti
- ☐ Dominica
- ☐ Dominican Republic
- ☐ Ecuador
- ☐ Egypt
- ☐ El Salvador
- ☐ Equatorial Guinea
- ☐ Eritrea
- ☐ Estonia
- ☐ Eswatini
- ☐ Ethiopia
- ☐ Fiji
- ☐ Finland
- ☐ France
- ☐ Gabon

- ☐ Gambia
- ☐ Georgia
- ☒ Germany
- ☐ Ghana
- ☐ Greece
- ☐ Grenada
- ☐ Guatemala
- ☐ Guinea
- ☐ Guinea Bissau
- ☐ Guyana
- ☐ Haiti
- ☐ Honduras
- ☐ Hungary
- ☐ Iceland
- ☐ India
- ☐ Indonesia
- ☐ Iran
- ☐ Iraq
- ☐ Ireland
- ☐ Israel
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Jamaica
- ☐ Japan
- ☐ Jordan
- ☐ Kazakhstan
- ☐ Kenya
- ☐ Kiribati
- ☐ Kuwait
- ☐ Kyrgyzstan
- ☐ Laos
- ☐ Latvia
- ☐ Lebanon
- ☐ Lesotho
- ☐ Liberia
- ☐ Libya
- ☐ Liechtenstein
- ☐ Lithuania
- ☐ Luxembourg
- ☐ Madagascar
- ☐ Malawi
- ☐ Malaysia
- ☐ Maldives
- ☐ Mali
- ☐ Malta
- ☐ Marshall Islands
- ☐ Mauritania
- ☐ Mauritius

- ☐ Mexico
- ☐ Micronesia
- ☐ Monaco
- ☐ Mongolia
- ☐ Montenegro
- ☐ Morocco
- ☐ Mozambique
- ☐ Myanmar
- ☐ Namibia
- ☐ Nauru
- ☐ Nepal
- ☐ Netherlands
- ☐ New Zealand
- ☐ Nicaragua
- ☐ Niger
- ☐ Nigeria
- ☐ North Korea
- ☐ North Macedonia
- ☐ Norway
- ☐ Oman
- ☐ Pakistan
- ☐ Palau
- ☐ Panama
- ☐ Papua New Guinea
- ☐ Paraguay
- ☐ Peru
- ☐ Philippines
- ☐ Poland
- ☐ Portugal
- ☐ Qatar
- ☐ Republic of Moldova
- ☐ Romania
- ☐ Russian Federation
- ☐ Rwanda
- ☐ Saint Kitts and Nevis
- ☐ Saint Lucia
- ☐ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- ☐ Samoa
- ☐ San Marino
- ☐ Sao Tome and Principe
- ☐ Saudi Arabia
- ☐ Senegal
- ☐ Serbia
- ☐ Seychelles
- ☐ Sierra Leone
- ☐ Singapore
- ☐ Slovakia

- ☐ Slovenia
- ☐ Solomon Islands
- ☐ Somalia
- ☐ South Africa
- ☐ South Korea
- ☐ South Sudan
- ☐ Spain
- ☐ Sri Lanka
- ☐ Sudan
- ☐ Suriname
- ☐ Sweden
- ☐ Switzerland
- ☐ Syrian Arab Republic
- ☐ Tajikistan
- ☐ Tanzania
- ☐ Thailand
- ☐ Timor-Leste
- ☐ Togo
- ☐ Tonga
- ☐ Trinidad and Tobago
- ☐ Tunisia
- ☐ Turkey
- ☐ Turkmenistan
- ☐ Tuvalu
- ☐ Uganda
- ☐ Ukraine
- ☐ United Arab Emirates
- ☐ United Kingdom
- ☐ United States of America
- ☐ Uruguay
- ☐ Uzbekistan
- ☐ Vanuatu
- ☐ Venezuela
- ☐ Viet Nam
- ☐ Yemen
- ☐ Zambia
- ☐ Zimbabwe

First name

Roland

Surname

Kempfle

Email Address of the organisation (this information will not be published)



* 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.**
- ☒ 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 2024 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 2024 RoL Report.pdf](#)

Please provide any relevant information on horizontal developments here

5000 character(s) maximum

Regarding horizontal developments in other European countries we should like to refer to the statement of the European Association of Judges (EAJ).

Questions for contribution

The following four pillars (I.-IV.) are sub-divided into topics (A., B., etc.) and sub-topics (1., 2., 3., etc.). For each of the topics and sub-topics, you are invited to provide (1) information on measures taken to implement the recommendations addressed to the Member State in the 2023 Rule of Law report, as well as developments with regard to the points raised in the respective country chapter of the 2023 Rule of Law Report and (2) any other significant developments since January 2023[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.

If there are developments you consider relevant under each of the four pillars that are not mentioned in the sub-topics, please add them under the section "other - please specify". Only significant developments should be covered.

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 covered in contribution [only one choice possible]

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

- ☐ 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

I. Justice System

Please provide information on measures taken to follow-up on the recommendations received in the 2023 Report regarding the justice system (if applicable)

5000 character(s) maximum

As in 2022, no further progress has been made.

In the 2023 Report Germany was recommended – for the second time – “to step up efforts to ensure adequate resources for the justice system, including on the level of remuneration for judges, taking into account European standards on resources and remuneration for the justice system”.

The German Judges Association welcomed these recommendations of the European Commission and addresses them continuously towards politicians at the Federal and the Länder level.

However, once again no significant efforts in that respect were noticed in 2023. For details, please see the answers on “remuneration” and “resources of the judiciary”.

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

a) The political discussion concerning the appointment of the President of the Münster Higher Administrative Court is a cause for concern (<https://www.lto.de/recht/nachrichten/n/vg-muenster-besetzungsstreit-ovg-nrw-limbach-ausschuss-landtag/>). This position is the highest judicial office in North Rhine-Westphalia and has been vacant for more than two years until today. According to a decision by the Münster Administrative Court, the Ministry of Justice of North Rhine-Westphalia stopped an ongoing application process involving several candidates just after the current Minister of Justice took office in order to give preference to another candidate (https://www.vg-muenster.nrw.de/behoerde/presse/10_pressemitteilungen/10_230928/index.php).

b) General concerns: In the Länder the executive has a strong role in the appointment and promotion of judges; that raises concerns in light of the upcoming elections in some of the German Länder in which an ultra-rightist party could become the strongest political power.

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 significant developments

Promotion of judges and prosecutors (incl. judicial review)

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant developments

Allocation of cases in courts

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant developments

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

No significant developments

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

No significant developments

Remuneration/bonuses/rewards for judges and prosecutors, including observed changes (significant and targeted increase or decrease over the past year), transparency on the system and access to the information

5000 character(s) maximum

Positive developments since 1.1.2023:

During the year 2023 the remuneration of judges and prosecutors increased at the same rate as other public officials and public employees. To that extent they benefit from the overall development in salaries and receive a compensation for the rising expenses due to the current inflation rates. This compensation, however, does not even fully equalize inflation and all public servants as well as most of the general population have to expect losses in real income.

The remaining Länder but not the Bund entered legislation to implement Constitutional court decisions concerning minimum salaries for public officials including judges and public prosecutors. In line with the relevant legislation of those Länder that introduced such legislation already in 2021 or 2022 they decided in general to significantly increase family benefits instead of raising salaries as such. Some of those benefits are also available for judges and public prosecutors. However, family benefits should in general not be considered as appropriate means of remuneration for judges and public prosecutors.

Negative developments since 1.1.2023:

There have been no further legislative efforts to significantly improve the level of remuneration of judges and prosecutors in 2023 – apart from certain family benefits. The recommendations of the European Commission in its Report of 2022 and 2023 still seem to be unheard.

According to a recent study conducted by Kienbaum Consultants International GmbH on behalf of the German Association of Judges, judges and public prosecutors are increasingly losing ground compared to lawyers in companies and large law firms (<https://www.drb.de/newsroom/presse-mediencenter/nachrichten-auf-einen-blick/nachricht/news/justiz-wird-beim-einkommen-abgehaengt>). The average salaries of young lawyers in large law firms are now more than twice as high as the annual remuneration of young judges and prosecutors. The gap widens even further in later professional life, as the salaries of lawyers and in-house counsels rise faster with increasing experience and responsibility than those of judges and public prosecutors. The latest study on lawyers' salaries clearly shows that the state is becoming less and less competitive as employer due to its entry-level salaries, especially as a deep gap has also opened up between the Länder.

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

5000 character(s) maximum

Although the governing parties agreed in their coalition agreement to adapt the ministerial right to refer individual cases to the public prosecutor's offices in accordance with the requirements of the European Court of Justice, no draft regulation has yet been presented.

Independently of the right to refer individual cases, the question of the organizational independence of the public prosecutor's office was also subject of public debate in one case. This was triggered by the plans of the North Rhine-Westphalian Ministry of Justice, which have since been withdrawn, to split up an investigative department of the Cologne public prosecutor's office involved in the so-called cum-ex investigations against its will (<https://www.tagesschau.de/investigativ/ndr-wdr/cum-ex-statsanwaltschaft-100.html> and <https://www.drb-nrw.de/nachrichten-1/meldungen-des-landesverbandes/nachricht/news/presseerklaerung-vom-29092023> . This debate alone is likely to create the appearance of influence on the decisions of the public prosecutor's offices.

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

Positive developments since 1.1.2023: no significant developments

Negative developments since 1.1.2023: The developments in connection with the appointment of the President of the Münster Higher Administrative Court as described above potentially may very well have negative effects on the public perception of the independence of the judiciary.

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 under section 2)

Accessibility of courts (e.g. court/legal fees, legal aid, language)

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant developments

Resources of the judiciary (human/financial/material)

(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

Positive developments since 1.1.2023:

Some, but not all of the Länder announced to create new positions for judges and prosecutors in 2024. However, the number of new posts in most of the Länder is by far not enough. As the number of criminal cases has increased extremely in most of the Länder, many public prosecutor's offices are clearly understaffed (see below).

Negative developments since 1.1.2023:

Unfortunately, although the governing parties of the Federal Republic of Germany had agreed to renew the so-called "Pact for the Rule of Law" in their coalition contract of 2021, the Federal Government has still fallen short of that promise so far.

At the end of 2023 there was a shortage of about 1,500 judicial posts in the public prosecutor's offices and criminal courts nationwide. The situation of court administration is also very tense, especially regarding shortages of office staff and IT specialists.

In particular at the public prosecutor's offices backlog is rising (see e.g. Süddeutsche Zeitung, 6th Jan.2024 „Wenn die Strafverfolgung an ihre Kapazitätsgrenze kommt“, <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/justiz-staatsanwaltschaften-anzeigen-geldwaesche-kinderpornografie-hassrede-1.6327863?reduced=true>). By the middle of 2023, the investigating authorities had reported almost 850,000 open cases nationwide, according to a survey of all 16 Länder conducted by the Deutsche Richterzeitung (10/2023, p. 326 ff.). The number of unresolved cases has risen by almost 30 percent compared to the middle of 2021. The increase is particularly high in Hamburg at 57 percent. The number of cases also jumped by 36% in the most populous Land of North Rhine-Westphalia.

According to the latest annual report on criminal justice published by the Federal Statistical Office in August 2023, the number of cases received by public prosecutors in 2022 rose to more than 5.2 million, more than ever before. Compared to the previous year 2021, this is a further increase of more than 300,000 cases. In North Rhine-Westphalia by the end of 2023 there was a shortfall of 360 public prosecutor posts out of 1461 existing posts - in addition to problems with creating additional posts. The NRW Minister of Justice intends to at least partially fill these gaps in the public prosecutor's offices by converting judges' posts. However, transferring jobs to the public prosecutor's offices is not a suitable solution to the problem. It does not address the cause and rather would create new shortages at the courts that would then have to be filled themselves (<https://www.drb-nrw.de/nachrichten-1/meldungen-des-landesverbandes/nachricht/news/presseerklaerung-vom-13122023>). Also, in Lower Saxony an extreme workload of public prosecutors reached unprecedented dimensions and endangers the rule of law (https://www.nrb-info.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Pressemitteilung_vom_8.12.2023.pdf).

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff, clerks/trainees)

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant developments

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

5000 character(s) maximum

Positive developments since 1.1.2023:

More and more courts all over Germany have been introducing electronic files in civil law.

Negative developments since 1.1.2023:

The switch to electronic files is not going smoothly everywhere; media disruptions, duplicate handling, printed e-files and scanned paper files are still part of everyday court life.

The Federal Minister of Justice promised 2022/2023 to support the digitalisation of the judiciary of the Länder with 200 Mio € in the course of a “Digital Pact for the Judiciary”. This Pact remains controversial, however in the meantime, the German Bundestag released almost 100 Mio € from this Pact for new software and more AI for the judiciary. This is still by far not sufficient to ensure that the legally required switch to electronic files and seamless digital communication between the judiciary and authorities, citizens and companies can be achieved everywhere by 2026. This would require billions of euros to be invested in hardware and software, network expansion and useful AI assistance tools. The experts from the E-Justice Council of the Federal and Länder governments have calculated that initial Federal funding of 1 billion € would be the lower limit of what is necessary (https://justiz.de/laender-bund-europa/e_justice_rat/beschluesse/22_sitzung.pdf;jsessionid=4294DA252E480AE6E6E17AAB026CF508).

Although announced several times, the Federal government has not yet presented a standardized nationwide portal for video hearings in civil courts or a legislative proposal for accelerated online proceedings for smaller disputes in civil justice.

Use of assessment tools and standards (e.g. ICT systems for case management, court statistics and their transparency, monitoring, evaluation, surveys among court users or legal professionals)

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant developments

Geographical distribution and number of courts/jurisdictions (“judicial map”) and their specialization, in particular specific courts or chambers within courts to deal with fraud and corruption cases

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant developments

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 under section

2)

Length of proceedings

5000 character(s) maximum

The actual figures from the Federal Statistical Office on the work of the criminal justice system (https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Staat/Justiz-Rechtspflege/_inhalt.html#_cgjkn3ijk) show a trend towards longer proceedings. The average duration of first-instance criminal proceedings before the regional courts has risen to a new high of 8.6 months in 2022. Calculated from the time they are received by the public prosecutor's office, first-instance proceedings at the regional court now take an average of 21,6 months, compared to four months faster in 2012. The duration of proceedings at the district courts has also increased significantly to 6 months. In a ten-year comparison, the district courts were almost two months faster.

In autumn of 2023 the Minister Presidents of the Länder and the Federal Chancellor have called for more speed from the authorities and courts in asylum procedures. In the future, court proceedings should not take longer than three months for nationals of countries with little chance of being granted the right to stay. In all other cases, it should be a maximum of six months. The current processing times of the administrative courts in asylum procedures are clearly decreasing: While asylum cases at first instance still took an average of 20 months nationwide in 2022, the duration has fallen to around 17 months in 2023. They range from 3.5 months in Trier to 38.5 months in Cottbus, according to a survey of all administrative courts conducted by the "Deutsche Richterzeitung" (DRiZ 11/2023, p. 370 f.). However, they are still a long way from the politically desired deadlines of a maximum of three and six months. The figures do not match up, unless the Länder invest massively in personnel also for the administrative courts.

Other - 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 2023 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 resources as relevant), including the cooperation among domestic and with foreign authorities. Indicate any relevant measure taken to effectively and timely cooperate with OLAF and EPPO (where applicable)

5000 character(s) maximum

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 and their application (including as regards incompatibility rules, revolving doors, codes of conduct, ethics training)

5000 character(s) maximum

General transparency of public decision-making (including rules on lobbying and their enforcement, asset disclosure rules and enforcement, gifts policy, transparency of political party financing)

5000 character(s) maximum

Rules and measures to prevent and address 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

If available to you, for the three preceding questions, you are also invited to provide figures on their application, such as number of detected breaches/irregularities of the various rules in place and the follow-up given (investigations, sanctions, etc.).

Measures in place to ensure whistleblower protection and encourage reporting of corruption, including the number of reports received and the follow-up given

5000 character(s) maximum

Sectors with high-risks of corruption in your Member State:

- Measures taken/envisaged for monitoring and preventing corruption and conflict of interest in public procurement
- List other sectors with high risks of corruption and the relevant measures taken/envisaged for monitoring and preventing corruption and conflict of interest in these sectors (e.g. healthcare, citizen /residence investor schemes, urban planning, risk or cases of corruption linked to the disbursement of EU funds, other), and, where applicable, list measures to prevent and address corruption committed by organised crime groups (e.g. to infiltrate the public sector)

5000 character(s) maximum

Any other relevant measures to prevent corruption in public and private sector

5000 character(s) maximum

C. Repressive measures

Criminalisation, including the level of sanctions available by law, of corruption and related offences, including foreign bribery

5000 character(s) maximum

Data on the number of investigations, prosecutions, final judgments and application of sanctions for corruption offences (differentiated by corruption offence if possible) including for legal persons and high level and complex corruption cases) and their transparency, including as regards to the implementation of EU funds

5000 character(s) maximum

Potential obstacles to investigation and prosecution as well as to the effectiveness of criminal sanctions 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

Information on effectiveness of non-criminal measures and of sanctions (e.g. recovery measures and administrative sanctions) on both public and private offenders

5000 character(s) maximum

Other - please specify

5000 character(s) maximum

III. Media pluralism and media freedom

Please provide information on measures taken to follow-up on the recommendations received in the 2023 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 adopted 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

Measures taken to ensure the fair and transparent allocation of state advertising (including any rules regulating the matter)

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 operational independence (e.g. related to reporting obligations and the allocation of resources) and safeguards for plurality of information and opinions
- 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

Transparency of media ownership and public availability of media ownership information, including on direct, indirect and beneficial owners, as well as any rules regulating the matter

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

Other - 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 2023 Report regarding the system of checks and balances (if applicable)

5000 character(s) maximum

A. The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments and evidence based policy-making, stakeholders'[1] /public consultations (including consultation of judiciary and other relevant stakeholders on judicial reforms), and transparency and quality of the legislative process both in the preparatory and the parliamentary phase

[1] This includes also the consultation of social partners

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant developments (related to reforms and legislative procedures concerning the judiciary or in which the judiciary is consulted)

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

No significant developments

Rules and application of states of emergency (or analogous regimes), including judicial review and parliamentary oversight

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant developments

Regime for constitutional review of laws

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant developments

B. Independent authorities

Independence, resources, capacity and powers 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

No significant developments

Statistics/reports concerning the follow-up of recommendations by National Human Rights Institutions, ombudsman institutions, equality bodies and supreme audit institutions in the past two years

5000 character(s) maximum

C. Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions (incl. their publication and rules on collection of related data)

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant developments

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

No significant developments

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

No significant developments

Follow-up by the public administration and State institutions to final (national/supranational, including the European Court of Human Rights) court decisions, as well as available remedies in case of non-implementation

5000 character(s) maximum

No significant developments

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 and dissolution rules)

5000 character(s) maximum

Not within the expertise of our association, no significant developments known

Rules and practices having an impact on the effective operation and safety of civil society organisations and human rights defenders. This includes measures for protection 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

5000 character(s) maximum

Not within the expertise of our association, no significant developments known

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

Not within the expertise of our association, no significant developments known

Rules and practices on the participation of civil society organisations and human rights defenders to the decision-making process (e.g. measures related to dialogue between authorities and civil society, participation of civil society in policy development and decision-making, consultation, dialogues, etc.)

5000 character(s) maximum

Not within the expertise of our association, no significant developments known

E. Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture (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

No significant developments

Other - please specify

5000 character(s) maximum

Contact

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