

# 2024 Rule of Law Report - targeted stakeholder consultation

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

## Introduction

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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<sup>[1]</sup> 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

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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

\* Newly adopted legislation

include aspects set out below under each pillar. This can include challenges, current work streams, positive developments and best practices:

**A) Legislative developments**

- 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

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\* 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

If "Other", please specify

\* Organisation name

Main Areas of Work ☐ **Justice System** ☐ Anti-corruption ☐ Media Pluralism ☐ Other

If "Other", please specify

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

Transparency register number

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

\* 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  
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☐ Jamaica  
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☐ Jordan  
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© Maldives  
© Mali  
o Malta  
C' Marshall Islands  
Lí Mauritania  
Lí Mauritius  
O Mexico  
Lí Micronesia  
Lí Monaco  
Lí Mongolia  
C? Montenegro  
Lí Morocco  
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O Namibia  
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O Nigeria  
O North Korea  
G North Macedonia  
G Norway  
G Oman  
© Pakistan  
© Palau  
G Panama  
G Papua New Guinea  
G Paraguay  
© Peru

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© Poland  
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Lí Romania  
Lí Russian Federation  
Lí Rwanda  
Lí Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Lí Saint Lucia  
Lí Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Lí Samoa  
Lí San Marino  
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© Somalia  
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© South Sudan  
© Spain  
© Sri Lanka  
© Sudan  
© Suriname  
© Sweden  
© Switzerland  
© Syrian Arab Republic  
© Tajikistan  
© Tanzania  
© Thailand  
© Timor-Leste  
© Togo  
© Tonga  
© Trinidad and Tobago  
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© Turkey  
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- © United States of America
- © Uruguay
- © Uzbekistan
- © Vanuatu
- © Venezuela
- © Viet Nam
- © Yemen
- © Zambia
- © Zimbabwe

First name

Surname

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

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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

## Questions for contribution

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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

- o Bulgaria
- o Croatia
- o Cyprus
- o Czechia
- o Denmark
- o Estonia
- o Finland
- o France
- o Germany
- o Greece

**X Hungary**

- o Ireland
- o Italy
- o Latvia
- o Lithuania
- o Luxembourg
- o Malta
- o Netherlands
- o Poland
- U Portugal
- o Romania
- U Slovak Republic
- o Slovenia
- © Spain

- u Sweden

## I. Justice System

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

**In 2023, the Act on the Organisation and Administration of Courts (Bszi.) and the Act on the Status and Remuneration of Judges (Bjt.) has been amended, both with effect from 1 June 2023. These laws amended several important rules on the appointment of judges and presidents of courts, extending the powers of the National Judicial Council (NJC). The whole legislation was a result of the RRP negotiations between the Hungarian Government and the European Commission. The NJC had the opportunity to comment on the legal draft. The majority of the suggestions of the NJC has been incorporated in the new legislation.**

**Under the new rules, the NJC has gained wide agreement (veto) powers and has become a legal entity with an independent and proper budget and staff members employed by the**

**NJC President. The NJC could elect its President and Vice-President, unlike in the past when these positions were automatically circulated among members on a rotational and seniority basis.**

**Since June 2023, the NJC exercises the right of agreement in the case of a decision of the President of the National Office of the Judiciary (NOJ) and the President of the Kúria (Supreme Court) declaring a judicial leadership application unsuccessful, if at least one valid application has been submitted.**

**The NJC may initiate legal amendments directly to the Ministry of Justice regarding the judicial system. NJC approves secondment of judges between county level and higher courts, approves the secondment of judges to state organs except for NOJ, and approves the number of judges and staff members at specific courts, approves the workload measurement and the training system and training obligations of judges.**

**The NJC has a right of agreement on the conditions and rates of other non-salary benefits.**

**The lack of agreement means veto so the President of the NOJ cannot decide on these matters without the NJC's consent.**

**These new competences have been also practiced by the NJC since then.**

**Based on the new law, the economical operation of the renewed NJC has been supported by the NOJ for a transitional period of 9 months ('incubation period'). During this period, the cooperation between the NJC and the NOJ was smooth and flawless and resulted in developing a functionally effective NJC Secretariat.**

## **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*

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)

**Due to the new law, before the election of the candidates for the positions of the Kúria President and Vice President and NOJ President and Vice President, the NJC forms a binding opinion on the legal suitability of the candidates based on a personal interview. The binding opinion can be challenged before the Metropolitan Court.**

**In the new legislation, Constitutional Court judges do not become automatically judges at the Kúria but at the Regional High Court of Appeal.**

**A correction of a deficiency reported last year, namely the amendment of the law on the appointment of judges in cases where a judge applies for several judicial posts at the same time, has still not been carried out. There is also a lack of statutory regulation on the order of evaluation in cases where several applications for the same post are examined for the same deadline in the same court. The NJC initiated legislation in the recent years for solving these issues.**

**The NJC considers a few issues which are being maintained after the legislation:**

- **the possibility of appointing judges of the Constitutional Court to the courts of appeal (NJC suggested appointment to the district courts);**
- **there is no legal preclusion preventing a member of the NJC from being a judicial leader who is subject to the power of appointment of the President of the NOJ.**

Promotion of judges and prosecutors (incl. judicial review)

**Very important positive development of the 2023 legislative reform is that judges can not be seconded between regional and higher courts without the approval of the NJC. The secondment practice had been previously used as a fast track of promotion although its legal grounds do not allow this former practice. After the reform these attempts can be controlled by the judicial self-governance. This also applies to secondments to the Kúria.**

**In addition, according to the new rules, the possibility which allowed the President of the NOJ to assign a judge seconded to the NOJ to a higher level court after their service in the NOJ has been abolished.**

Allocation of cases in courts

**The new laws are regulating the case allocation system of the Kúria more detailed than ever, however, the NJC has no official position in this regard and can not comment on this positive development.**

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)

**The European Commission's condition to strengthen the powers and legal status of the National Judicial Council seems to be fulfilled with the above-mentioned amendments.**

**The laws adopted extended the powers of the NJC as also listed above. This extension of powers could provide additional guarantees on issues of major importance for the judiciary as a whole.**

With regard to the extended powers provisions were also adopted to strengthen the legal status of the NJC and ensuring the personnel, material and budgetary conditions for the increased performance of its tasks.

The law regulates in much more details the range of remedies available to the NJC and the remedies available against the NJC, including the right to a court procedure. Under the new provision of the Act, the NJC may itself bring an action against the NOJ or the Kúria as party for failure to comply with an obligation under the Act. The NOJ, the Kúria or the Minister of Justice are also entitled to institute legal proceedings against the NJC if the NJC fails to fulfil its obligations under the law.

As mentioned above, there is no legal preclusion preventing a member of the NJC from being a judicial leader who is subject to the power of appointment of the President of the NOJ. This means that there can be NJC members who shall supervise their direct superior.

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)

**The President of the Kúria has challenged the Code of Ethics (adopted by the NJC in 2022) before the Constitutional Court, requesting to declare the Code of Ethics unconstitutional and in the alternative to annul the Code. Based on his reasoning the Code allows too wide opportunity for judges to express their opinion on the judicial system. The Constitutional Court has not yet taken a decision in relation to this motion.**

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

**This important aspect of the judicial independence (salary of judges and court staff) has not been improved; the situation is critical.**

The European Commission's 2023 Rule of Law Report pointed out that the impact of earlier salary increases of judges and prosecutors has been adversely affected by high inflation, the financial situation of judges and court staff has deteriorated, also compared to the significant wage increases in other segments of society and due to low salaries, courts have difficulties with recruiting and retaining non-judicial staff.

On 7 June 2023, the NJC submitted an official legislative proposal to the Minister of Justice to ensure that judges and judicial staff receive an increase in their salaries at least in line with inflation from 1 September 2023. The NJC recalled that remuneration that reflects the dignity and responsibility of the judiciary is an important component of judicial independence, and that judicial staff turnover also affects the functioning of the courts.

No written reply was received from the Minister. At the NJC meeting in September, the Deputy Minister informed the NJC that the Ministry supports an increase in the salaries of judicial staff, but he did not mention an increase in the salaries of judges.

To date, no action has been taken by the legislative to increase the salaries of judges or court staff. The net salary of a district court judge aged 30 or above starts at 547.000 HUF (~1400 EUR).

The NJC considers it important to state that the current salaries of judges are not adequate with judicial responsibility and that the low salaries of judicial staff often lead to career abandonment.

Meanwhile, the salaries of the other two branches of state power, the legislative and the executive, have been significantly increased. The same has happened in other areas of the public sector. All branches of government have increased salaries at a higher rate than the courts by introducing an automatic system of salary growth linked to the increase in average national gross income. During this period the minimum wage increased by almost 100% and average earnings by more than 60%. The salaries of judges are based on a case-by case salary settlement agreement, subject to a decision by the government and parliament, without any automaticity. As a result the judiciary has suffered a significant real salary reduction from 2021, despite the pay rises implemented in previous years. In 2023, the wages of four-fifths of all workers in Hungary, i.e. all individuals engaged in work, will rise by at least 13-15%, including in the public sector, with exception of the courts and prosecutors' offices. This phenomenon affects the judicial independence.

The NJC draws attention to and calls for the support for an increase in judicial salaries. The presidents of the Kúria, the NOJ and the Hungarian Association of Judges all agree that this situation shall be immediately solved by significantly raising the judicial salaries.

As far as we know, the salary of Judges in Hungary is the lowest in the whole European Union.

NJC President has also informed the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ) on this issue: <https://www.encj.eu/index.php/node/669>

Independence/autonomy of the prosecution service

*5000 character(s) maximum*

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.

After the RRP negotiations between the Hungarian government and the European Commission, the massive smear campaigns against the NJC and its members have been discontinued, however, in the course of the Summer (<https://magyarnemzet.hu/tollhegyen/2023/07/regi-csibeszek-6>) and the Fall (<https://magyarnemzet.hu/velemeney/2023/10/a-jurisztokracia-mar-a-spajzban-van>), a few but meaningful articles have been published in the government controlled press in which two members of the NJC were labelled and called left-wing liberal judges (“balliberális bíró”) and the NJC itself was called left-wing liberal putty club (“balliberális gittegylet”) (<https://magyarnemzet.hu/velemeney/2023/11/ujabb-eligazitas-a-helytartonal>).

These few articles also aimed maintaining the chilling effect among judges that was generated previously with the centralized massive smear campaigns of 2022.

In Spring 2023, The President of the Kúria questioned the legal composition of the NJC in a speech to ambassadors to Hungary with questioning the function of district court judges in the NJC. This attitude towards district court judges have been criticized by several elected members of the NJC in its session. The President of the Kúria also questioned the judicial reform of 2023 in a radio interview in the Summer, claiming that the amended new rules would be inapplicable.

## 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*

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.)*

The judiciary can not keep the non-judicial employees due to the unsatisfactory salaries.

**The turnover endangers the operation of the courts. The ratio of the non-judicial staff based on the number of judges is lower than in the European Union, judges have insufficient legal and non-legal assistance. The NOJ had planned to decide on the abolition of non-legal statuses in order to have more freedom to manage the staff budget which the NJC has not supported claiming that managing the number of court staff cannot be the question of budgetary issues and purposes.**

Training of justice professionals (including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff, clerks/trainees)  
*5000 character(s) maximum*

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*

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)

**In November 2023, the President of the NOJ with the approval of the NJC determined the developed methodology of measuring the workload of judges for the year 2023. Beside the number of cases also the difficulty of them, and the lower number of hearing days of the incomplete panels are also considered by the methodology. The introduction of the weighting factors (which shows the difficulty of the cases) in the appellate procedure is planned for 2024.**

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*

## 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*

Other - please specify

*5000 character(s) maximum*

## II. Anti-Corruption Framework

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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

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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

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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*

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*

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 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 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*

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*

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*

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*

## 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*

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 online –, 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*

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*

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*

## 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*

Other - please specify

*5000 character(s) maximum*