

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

Reporters Without Borders

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

<https://rsf.org/en>

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

612547127497-45

* 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

Julie

Surname

Majerczak

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

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

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)

5000 character(s) maximum

Promotion of judges and prosecutors (incl. judicial review)

5000 character(s) maximum

Allocation of cases in courts

5000 character(s) maximum

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

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

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

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

5000 character(s) maximum

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.)

5000 character(s) maximum

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)

5000 character(s) maximum

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

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

No progress has been made on the recommendation to take forward the process of adopting non-legislative safeguards and start the legislative process in relation to the protection of journalists, building on the activities initiated by the Task Force, in particular as regards abusive lawsuits against journalists and their safety, in line with the adopted Memorandum of Understanding and taking into account European standards on the protection of journalists.

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

In September 2023, a new composition of the National Council for Radio and Television (NCRTV) was approved by the Conference of Presidents with the votes of governing party New Democracy and nationalist party Hellenic Solution. Former Supreme Court prosecutor Evterpi Kouzamani was appointed as chairman, journalist Giannis Politis as vice-chairman, while journalists Dimitris Stavropoulos and Eftihis Pallikaris will be members, as well as George Vlavianos, Yannis Michelakis, the lawyer and president of the Rafina Port Authority Spyros Chrysofotis and the honorary vice-president of the Legal Council of the State Stefanos Detsis. (<https://www.naftemporiki.gr/society/1519094/nea-synthesi-sto-esr-proedros-i-eyterpi-koytzamani/>) According to commentators :“The way NCRTV is constituted has already made it extremely weak, and not only for reasons of prestige, as it lacks the basic representativeness in terms of ideological and political views as expressed in the benches of the Parliament, but also in terms of the professional background and career of its members: not a single member of NCRTV belongs to the academic community or is not even a

prominent member of civil society. NCRTV also appears to be particularly fragile: questions are already being raised as to whether it is legally constituted by the way in which the President of the Parliament has set it up. Many professors of constitutional law are lodging objections of unconstitutional composition.”
https://www.avgi.gr/politiki/464473_apodynamomeno-kai-eythraysto-esr

Existence and functions of media councils or other self-regulatory bodies

5000 character(s) maximum

In 2022, the General Secretariat for Communication and Information set up a Task Force with the aim of protecting, safeguarding and strengthening the position of journalists and other media professionals
<https://media.gov.gr/ngee-task-force-gia-ti-diasfalisi-tis-prostasias-tis-asfaleias-kai-tis-enischysis-tis-thesis-ton-dimosiografon-kai-allon-epangelmaton-ton-meson-enimerosis/>
A mission to Greece of International press freedom organisations in September 2023 concluded that “the establishment of the Task Force for the protection of journalists is a step in the right direction, but it requires sufficient resources, a timeline and the political backing required to be effective.” <https://rsf.org/en/murdered-surveilled-and-sued-decisive-action-needed-protect-journalists-and-salvage-press-freedom>
In addition, the Foreign Press Association flagged in March 2023 that although it participated actively in the Task Force, a progress report was submitted to the European Commission that the representatives of the participating institutions in Athens had not previously seen. <https://fpa.gr/fpa-statement-regarding-the-task-force-for-journalism/>

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

As already reported, a new law "Enhancing publicity and transparency in the printed and electronic press" established electronic registers for printed and electronic press in December 2022.
In November 2023, the Secretary General of Communication and Information Dimitris Galamatis referred in detail to the Print and Electronic Press Registers, while he presented detailed data and results from their implementation. He stressed that out of the 499 publications that applied, only 356 were included, namely 239 out of 283 regional newspapers, 58 out of 95 national newspapers and 59 out of 121 magazines.
<https://www.e-gortynia.gr/parousiastike-to-mitroou-entypou-kai-ilektronikou-typou-stous-foreis/>

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

A mission to Greece of International press freedom organisations in September 2023 concluded that the Government should quickly propose and the Greek President adopt the decree - as stipulated in the law - regulating the use of spyware by the state while applying the safeguards mentioned above; as well as repeal all export licences that are not fully in line with EU's Dual-Use Regulation. <https://rsf.org/en/murdered-surveilled-and-sued-decisive-action-needed-protect-journalists-and-salvage-press-freedom>

Law enforcement capacity, including during protests and demonstrations, to ensure journalists' safety and to investigate attacks on journalists

5000 character(s) maximum

On 4 January 2023, officers of the Hellenic Riot Police (MAT) physically and verbally assaulted several journalists in Thessaloniki, when they attempted to cover the dispersion of the solidarity protest of Terra Incognita members in support of the hunger and thirst strike of imprisoned anarchist Thanos Chatziangelou. Police created a security perimeter to prevent journalists from documenting their actions to break up the protestors. <https://www.mapmf.org/alert/25539>

On 5 March 2023, three journalists and a camera operator were detained and taken to a police station as they had been covering the apology of a stationmaster allegedly responsible for the deadly train disaster in Tempi, northern Greece. The four media workers had been reporting from outside the court in Larissa where the stationmaster had recently been charged with manslaughter over the deadliest rail disaster in Greek history. <https://www.mapmf.org/alert/25696>

On 5 March 2023 during a railway workers' strike rally in the center of Athens, against the governments' policies that resulted in the deadly railway accident in Tempi photojournalist Konstantinos Zilos was injured in the lower abdomen area by a flash grenade, while he was recording of the clashes with the police. <https://ekfrasi.net/katapeltis-i-efe-gia-ton-travmatismo-fotoreporter-apo-ta-mat/>

On 12 March 2023, journalist Giorgos Fakis, who was covering a protest march in Larissa, reported that he was attacked with a baton by a police officer, an incident which was apparently recorded on video. In a social media post the journalist claimed that he was running whilst shooting a video on his mobile phone, with the other hand over his eyes; blinded by tear gas, when a police officer ran up to him and hit him twice with a baton, and despite the fact that Mr Fakis shouted that he was a journalists shooting a video, was then hit a third time. <https://govwatch.gr/en/finds/katagellomeno-peristatiko-astynomikis-vias-kata-toy-dimosiografoy-giorgoy-faki/>

On 26 October 2023, the Franco-Canadian journalist Romain Chauvet was sentenced by an Athens court to a six-month suspended prison sentence for “disseminating false information”. According to the verdict, he issued a false bomb alert concerning a flight arriving from Israel with Canadian citizens on board. The journalist claims he only came to the airport to cover the arrival of the flight. The journalist was convicted in a word-against-word procedure without solid evidence, which should have benefitted the accused. RSF will continue to support him, while awaiting the appeal decision. Albeit not targeting a journalistic publication, the verdict potentially represents a dangerous precedent in the application of the law against fake news. For the first time in several years, this legislation has been used to convict a journalist.
<https://rsf.org/en/greece-rsf-concerned-about-possible-conviction-french-canadian-reporter-accused-issuing-false-bomb>

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

On 2 October 2023, the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum denied freelance journalist Lydia Emmanouilidou's request to visit the Closed Controlled Access Center (CCAC) of Samos, stating that “the visit of journalists to Migrant Reception Structures has been suspended until further notice”. It was not clear whether the ban applied to Emmanouilidou or was a national policy. The Ministry of Immigration and Asylum and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed Emmanouilidou that journalists' access to the refugee camps was suspended until further notice. <https://www.mapmf.org/alert/30716>

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

In early November 2023, Greek Prime Minister's nephew and ex-chief of staff Grigoris Dimitriadis filed lawsuits against Alter Ego Media & made threats to Reporters United, Thanasis Koukakis, Efimerida Ton Syntakton, Avgi & other Greek media over their public-interest reporting on his involvement in Predator spyware infections. RSF condemned the intimidation attempt. https://x.com/RSF_inter/status/1722993615247397089?s=20

In early 2023, a court in Athens partially accepted the civil lawsuit filed by the former high-ranking executive of a gold mining company, Hellas Gold, and ordered the cooperative media outlet to pay a total of €3,000 in damages to the plaintiff. Partner organisations of the Media Freedom Rapid Response (MFRR) expressed dismay over the recent court ruling involving a SLAPP lawsuit against independent Greek media outlet Alterthess and one of its journalists, Stavroula Poulimeni. <https://www.ecpmf.eu/greece-mfrr-to-fund-legal-appeal-for-lawsuit-against-alterthess/>

On 22 January 2023, the Deputy Minister of Sports and Member of Parliament of Heraklion, Lefteris Avgenakis, discredited and mocked Crete TV and Nea Kriti journalist Georgia Makakis during the opening ceremony of the Greek Branch of the International Society of Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis, in Heraklion. <https://www.mapmf.org/alert/25591>

On 2 February 2023, it was announced that the son of the Greek Minister of Citizen Protection would file a defamation lawsuit for 100,000 euros against journalist Vassilis Lambropoulos for his reporting on allegations about his detention in 2021. The lawsuit was part of a wider legal response by the Minister's son,

Dimitris Theodorikakos, 23, in response to multiple media reports about high-profile allegations made by a retired senior police officer that a case involving Dimitris had been covered up. <https://www.mapmf.org/alert/25650>

On 26 March 2023, Deputy Minister of Development Nikos Papathanasis publicly threatened to sue Greek newspaper Documento for defamation after it published a report related to a loan settlement the minister had reached with a Greek bank. <https://www.mapmf.org/alert/30144>

In early November 2023, the publisher of Greek daily Documento, Kostas Vaxevanis, and one of the newspaper's journalists Vangelis Triantis, were summoned as "suspects" as part of a criminal investigation into "possible offense of the use of official secrecy" in connection with their investigative reporting. The probe, which could see the journalists face serious criminal charges, was launched by the Prosecutor's Office in Athens. <https://www.mapmf.org/alert/30818>

Other - please specify

5000 character(s) maximum

Slow progress of spyware investigations

A mission to Greece of International press freedom organisations in September 2023 showed that the investigation and prosecution of journalist criminal complaints stemming from the surveillance against EYP and Intellexa are not proceeding as they should. The lack of prosecutorial capacity is evidently an obstacle, and one reporter said this enables the government to hide behind the slow pace of the justice system. Journalists also noted that police are doing the bare minimum: many EYP agents are former police officers, so police are not cooperating with the prosecutors. They raised the possibility of political arm-twisting, presumably in an attempt to run out the statute of limitations. <https://rsf.org/en/murdered-surveilled-and-sued-decisive-action-needed-protect-journalists-and-salvage-press-freedom>

Transfer of the investigation to avoid crucial cross-check

On 23 October 2023, Supreme Court Prosecutor Georgia Adilini ordered the transfer of the Predatorgate investigation from the first-instance prosecutor's office to the Supreme Court. This unexpected decision came just as the prosecutors in charge of the investigation were about to compare the spyware's target list with the one of the EYP. Indeed, they wanted to verify potential matches between the 88 owners of the 92 telephone numbers, including several journalists, targeted with Predator, according to data revealed by the Hellenic Data Protection Authority (DPA), and the list of people whose telephone privacy was lifted by EYP. According to recent leaks in the media, the number of common Predator-EYP targets could be as high as 40. <https://rsf.org/en/predatorgate-scandal-greece-rsf-denounces-political-sabotage-investigation>

Summoning of ADAE Members for merely doing their job

On 25 October 2023, a magistrate summoned former and current members of the independent watchdog (ADAE) as suspects for leaking classified information, according to several officials. <https://www.politico.eu/article/greek-government-spying-regulators-wiretapping-predatorgate-scandal/>

Specifically, Ms Katerina Papanikolaou, a former member of ADAE, the professor at the University of Piraeus, Mr Stefanos Gritzalis and two other members of the ADAE were summoned to appear before the magistrate, as suspects for the crime of leaking sensitive state secrets to journalist and Predator target Thanasis Koukakis. https://www.efsyn.gr/politiki/409246_stohopoioyn-meli-tis-adae-sto-thema-ton-ypoklopon

Chief prosecutor intervention

On 10 January 2023, Greece's chief prosecutor Isidoros Dogiakos issued a controversial legal opinion arguing that ADAE, cannot conduct audits of telecommunication companies to find out who is under

surveillance by the country's intelligence agency. Dogiakos went a step further and warned the members of ADAE with criminal prosecution if they continued with their audits. Dogiakos issued his opinion on a request by OTE telecoms, lodged in the wake of a visit to its headquarters by an ADAE team investigating the wiretapping of the telephones of independent MEP Giorgos Kyrtos and investigative journalist Tasos Telloglou. After the audit, sources later confirmed to AP that decrees had indeed been issued for lifting the confidentiality of their phone communications.

RSF's recommendations to the Greek government

- Take concrete steps to better regulate the fair and non-discriminatory allocation of state advertising to media in a transparent manner and based on fair, strict and publicly available criteria.
- Enforce the full implementation of the transparency of media ownership in Greece in an accessible and regularly updated ownership registry for all forms of media, including beneficial ownership.
- In consultation with media stakeholders, develop reforms aimed at safeguarding independent journalism in line with provisions outlined in the draft European Media Freedom Act (EMFA).
- Step up efforts to accelerate investigations, prosecutions and final judgments in high-profile cases such as the assassination of journalist Giorgos Karaivaz and the wiretapping scandal Predatorgate.
- Refrain from weakening the functional independence of privacy watchdog ADAE, and pressuring its members, as well as from interfering with the independence of other authorities (Data Protection Authority, National Transparency Authority, Chief Prosecutor etc.), and ensure these bodies are free to carry out their mandate to investigate - among others - wiretapping of journalists without any political pressure.

Please see complete recommendations of RSF and its partners here:

<https://rsf.org/en/murdered-surveilled-and-sued-decisive-action-needed-protect-journalists-and-salvage-press-freedom>

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

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 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

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

Contact

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