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Committee on Budgets

2026/2144(INI)

6.11.2026

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the Commission's Rule of Law report – annual report 2026
(2026/2144(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Jean-Marc Germain

PA_NonLeg

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Budgets submits the following to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible:

Amendment 1

Motion for a resolution
Citation 47 a (new)

Motion for a resolution	*Amendment*
	– having regard to its resolution of 28 April 2026 on the proposal for a Council regulation laying down the Multiannual Financial Framework for the years 2028 to 2034[1a],
	[1a] Text adopted, P10_TA(2026)0111

Or. en

Amendment 2

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 42

Motion for a resolution	*Amendment*
42. Stresses the need to strengthen the link between the recommendations addressing the most persistent violations in the annual rule of law report and budgetary tools, including the next multiannual financial framework;	42. Stresses the need to strengthen the link between the recommendations addressing the most persistent violations in the annual rule of law report and budgetary tools, including the next multiannual financial framework; ***deplores the lack of detail on how this link is made in the 2026 Rule of Law Report, notably in its recommendations; urges the Commission to translate the country-specific recommendations from its annual rule of law reports into concrete milestones to be systematically acted on by the Member States and, where appropriate, to serve as evidence to justify the activation of the Conditionality Regulation;***

Or. en

Amendment 3

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 43 a (new)

Motion for a resolution	*Amendment*
	43a. Stresses that the effective protection of the EU budget also depends on robust financial management and control systems; calls on the Commission to systematically take into account findings from the European Court of Auditors, the European Anti-Fraud Office, the European Public Prosecutor's Office and national audit authorities when preparing recommendations in the rule of law report to assess rule-of-law-related risks to EU funds; underlines that systemic deficiencies identified by these oversight bodies should be duly reflected in the Commission's use of budget-protection tools, and that the annual rule of law reports should clearly refer to the findings of these independent bodies, explicitly distinguishing them from the Commission's own assessments in order to strengthen transparency and credibility;

Or. en

Amendment 4

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 43 b (new)

Motion for a resolution	*Amendment*
	43b. Emphasises that transparency is vital to ensure that all budgetary tools linked to the rule of law are applied systematically and based on clear criteria; highlights the need for transparent, consistent and predictable implementation across all Member States; is concerned about unclear procedures that may undermine accountability and allow governments to frame fund retention as politically driven; calls on the

Commission to set out and publish clear and detailed criteria for assessing the budgetary implications of rule of law deficiencies, including for interruptions, suspensions and the reprogramming of EU funds, and to ensure timely and non-selective decision-making across all Member States; calls on the Commission to include in its annual rule of law reports its findings related to the budgetary implications of rule of law deficiencies, including for interruptions, suspensions and the reprogramming of EU funds;

Or. en

Amendment 5

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 43 c (new)

Motion for a resolution	*Amendment*
	43c. Welcomes the recent developments in Hungary, in particular the commitment of the new authorities to restoring the rule of law; underlines the essential role of Hungarian civil society in this process; takes note of the Council's approval, on 10 July 2026, of Hungary's revised recovery and resilience plan, allowing the disbursement of approximately EUR 10 billion in grants and loans; acknowledges that following the Commission proposal, the Council adopted an implementing decision on 13 October 2026 lifting the measures imposed under Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 by Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506 and repealing that Decision; calls the Commission to timely inform the Parliament when proposing such decisions;

Or. en

Amendment 6

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 43 d (new)

Motion for a resolution	*Amendment*
	43d. Recalls that the amounts in EU funds to be released represent a total of 16,4 billion euros; stresses that the rapid release of such significant amounts require particular vigilance given that the long-standing effects of corruption may create risks for EU funds; warns that the proposed reforms may take time to materialise in practice; underlines that the changes undertaken must lead to lasting improvements in the protection of the Union budget;

Or. en

Amendment 7

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 44 a (new)

Motion for a resolution	*Amendment*
	44a. Welcomes the safeguards for compliance with the rule of law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU in the implementation of the NRP Plans in the NRP regulation proposal, requiring Member States to respect these fundamental principles throughout the MFF; insists, however, that these safeguards should not create overlaps with the proposed conditionality mechanism in the upcoming MFF and calls for a unified, coherent and comprehensive framework across all EU programmes, under the umbrella of the Conditionality Regulation;

Or. en

Amendment 8

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 44 b (new)

Motion for a resolution	*Amendment*
	44b. Welcomes that Commission has proposed that NRP Plans would address challenges identified in the EU policy reference framework, including those identified in the Rule of Law Report; welcomes that Member States would be expected to include in their Plans investments and reforms that protect and strengthen the rule of law, guided by the Report and its results-oriented recommendations; calls for stronger links between the Rule of Law Report's recommendations and the approval of the NRP Plans;

Or. en

Amendment 9

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 44 c (new)

Motion for a resolution	*Amendment*
	44c. Stresses that a smarter approach is needed to safeguard final recipients and beneficiaries, particularly those who suffer the consequences of rule of law deficiencies, from being affected when EU funds are suspended to their respective governments as a result of rule of law breaches; recalls the obligation of the Member States subject to measures under the Conditionality Regulation to continue honouring all commitments towards final recipients and beneficiaries; stresses that any measures taken to ensure that legitimate final recipients and beneficiaries can continue to access EU funding should not weaken the application of the Conditionality Regulation;

Or. en