

Question for written answer E-004717/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Clarifications needed on the implementation of the European Democracy Shield

The proposal on the European Democracy Shield has been portrayed as an ambitious initiative. Unfortunately, there is a major risk that it will extend EU competences into spheres that are traditionally the prerogative of the Member States: elections, civic education, culture and the media. These areas form part of the democratic identity of each nation and cannot be reshaped using insufficiently-defined EU mechanisms.

As it stands, the initiative extends EU competences without giving any clear justification for this and without respecting the principle of subsidiarity. Romania and the other Member States must remain sole decision-makers when it comes to organising their electoral processes, protecting their information space and maintaining their internal democratic orders.

Terms such as ‘disinformation’ or ‘external interference’ are over-vague and may lead to uneven implementation with effects on the press, electoral processes and the quality of public debate. In these circumstances, it is essential to safeguard national competences to ensure democratic balance.

1. Does the Commission have a concrete plan for tackling genuine vulnerabilities such as AI-generated false information, cross-border political micro-targeting and the big differences between states in terms of administrative capacities?
2. Can the Commission guarantee that the Centre for Democratic Resilience does not begin to play a supervisory role over national processes and that its mandate remains strictly limited and clearly defined?
3. How will the Commission ensure that interventions under the European Democracy Shield do not affect media pluralism?

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