

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001366/24
to the Commission
Christine Anderson (ESN)
(16 July 2024)**

Subject: Democracy under threat — protecting politicians from attacks?

Recently, high-ranking political figures have been targeted in firearm attacks, such as the assassination attempt on former US President Donald Trump and, prior to that, the attack on Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico. These heinous acts are not only attacks on individuals, but also on the fundamental values of democracy. Taking joint action to maintain the security and integrity of democratic processes is a matter of utmost urgency.

1. What measures is the Commission taking to protect political figures and prevent such attacks?
2. Are there any plans to increase cooperation and information exchanges between EU Member States with regard to threats and security risks to politicians?
3. What is the Commission's assessment of the current situation with regard to political violence and what strategies are being pursued to protect democratic processes and institutions from such threats?

Submitted: 16.7.2024

**Answer given by Mr Reynders on behalf of the European Commission
(28 November 2024)**

The Commission condemns any type of violence aimed at disrupting the free and fair political participation.

The Commission proposed a 'whole-of-society' approach in supporting the democratic process.

In the recommendation on inclusive and resilient elections adopted as part of the 2023 Defence of Democracy package ⁽¹⁾, the Commission encouraged political parties, among others, to adopt codes of conduct on election integrity and fair campaigning.

Ahead of the 2024 European elections, all European political parties signed a code of conduct in which they committed to inclusive political discourse and to an ethical and transparent use of campaign tools, among other things.

Following several attacks on politicians, the Commission triggered a targeted discussion on 31 May 2024 within the European Cooperation Network on Elections on safety in politics and supporting measures. This Network remains a solid framework for further exchanges of best practices and mutual learning.

The Commission will review the follow-up being given to the 2023 Recommendation by Member States in the context of the Commission's Report on the 2024 European elections ⁽²⁾.

The Political Guidelines for the next Commission cement democracy at the heart of the EU and highlight that strengthening this further will be the Commission's daily work and duty.

This will include work to better protect the safety of political candidates and elected representatives who face mounting threats to their security and undue pressure.

⁽¹⁾ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/2829 of 12 December 2023 on inclusive and resilient electoral processes in the Union and enhancing the European nature and efficient conduct of the elections to the European Parliament, C/2023/8626, OJ L, 2023/2829, 20.12.2023.

⁽²⁾ Point 46 of Recommendation 2023/2829 on inclusive and resilient electoral processes in the Union and enhancing the European nature and efficient conduct of the elections to the European Parliament indicates that the Commission will assess the impact of such Recommendation in the context of its report on the 2024 elections to the European Parliament, taking into account the information transmitted by Member States on the conduct of those elections in their territory.