

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002817/24  
to the Commission  
Tomasz Froelich (ESN)  
(8 December 2024)**

*Subject:* Coup d'état in Romania through the annulment of the elections as a possible precedent for EU Member States

Călin Georgescu, who is critical of the EU and NATO, unexpectedly emerged as the victor in the first round of the Presidential elections in Romania and made it through to the run-off due to take place on 8 December 2024. In the intervening period, the Romanian authorities considered the legality of the first round of voting. On 2 December 2024, they reported no objections. On 6 December 2024, they revised this verdict and annulled the elections, cancelling the run-off vote. Polls indicated that Georgescu was clearly in the lead. The reason given for the decision was foreign interference. Romanian intelligence service documents did not substantiate this interference. Reference was merely made to concerted social media campaigns in favour of Georgescu. Such campaigns are commonplace during electoral contests.

1. Does the Commission see a risk that in future this could set a precedent that could lead to the cancellation of elections in other EU Member States if candidates critical of the EU might win these elections?
2. Can foreign influence — including by the EU — exerting pressure on Romania's highest court to revise its initial decision of 2 December 2024 be ruled out?

Submitted: 8.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission  
(21 February 2025)**

Democracy is one of the founding values on which the European Union is built. Free and fair elections are at the core of democracy.

The conduct and the organisation of elections is a competence of the Member States, in line with their national constitutional rules and legislation, and with their international obligations and EU law. National authorities and courts are primarily responsible to control the respect for applicable rules.

The Commission has no comment on the decision by the Romanian constitutional court of 6 December 2024 to annul the first round of the Romanian presidential elections. This is a responsibility of the Member States.

The Commission supports Member States on elections, mainly in the framework of the European Coordination Network on Elections <sup>(1)</sup>. This network brings together national authorities with responsibilities that are relevant to electoral matters. It allows for exchanges of information and best practices and to identify and discuss challenges.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/democracy-eu-citizenship-anti-corruption/democracy-and-electoral-rights/european-cooperation-network-elections\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/democracy-eu-citizenship-anti-corruption/democracy-and-electoral-rights/european-cooperation-network-elections_en)