

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000256/25
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (Pfe)
(21 January 2025)**

Subject: EU interference in Romanian political affairs

On 6 December 2024, the Romanian Constitutional Court invalidated the outcome of the first round of the presidential election on the grounds of alleged electoral violations and foreign interference. This has sparked institutional chaos and mass demonstrations, with citizens denouncing the cancellation of the ballot and viewing this decision as a disguised coup d'état aimed at keeping a pro-EU government excluding a proportion of the Romanian people in place in the country,

Many Romanian citizens accuse the European Union, and Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in particular, of wanting to impose pro-European leaders while marginalising opposition movements.

This state of affairs raises serious questions as to respect for national sovereignty and the credibility of the European institutions.

1. How can the Commission justify its increasing involvement in the internal democratic processes of certain Member States, flying in the face of the principle of subsidiarity?
2. What arrangements does it intend to put in place to ensure that the European institutions do not interfere in the sovereign decisions of the Member States, particularly in electoral matters?
3. Does it acknowledge that such perceived meddling may exacerbate public distrust of the European Union and fuel social tensions?

Submitted: 21.1.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(24 April 2025)**

The organisation and conduct of elections are the competence and responsibility of the Member States, in accordance with their national constitutional rules and legislation, as well as their international obligations and applicable EU law. National authorities and courts are primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with the applicable rules.

The Commission has no competence to intervene in the organisation and conduct of elections.

The Commission supports Member States on electoral matters, mainly through the framework of the European cooperation network on elections ⁽¹⁾. This brings together national authorities with relevant competence and facilitates the exchanges of information and best practices.

The Commission is also working with Member States to support the application of EU law provisions relevant in national electoral contexts, such as those in the Digital Services Act ⁽²⁾, the regulation 2024/900 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising ⁽³⁾ (which will apply in full from October 2025), the General Data Protection Regulation ⁽⁴⁾ and the Artificial Intelligence Act ⁽⁵⁾.

In 2023, the Commission issued the recommendation on inclusive and resilient electoral processes in the EU ⁽⁶⁾ aiming to promote high democratic standards for elections in the EU, supporting high turnout, inclusive participation, easy and equal exercise of electoral rights and resilient electoral processes.

⁽¹⁾ 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

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A30222R2065>. In 2024, the Commission issued Guidelines for providers of Very Large Online Platforms and Very Large Online Search Engines on the mitigation of systemic risks for electoral processes, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024XC03014&qid=1714466886277>

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/900/oj/eng>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj/eng>

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng>

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2023/2829/oj/eng>