

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001279/25
to the Commission**

Iaria Salis (The Left), Martin Schirdewan (The Left), Özlem Demirel (The Left), Anthony Smith (The Left), Leila Chaibi (The Left), Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE), Carola Rackete (The Left), Jaume Asens Llodrà (Verts/ALE), Damien Carême (The Left), Per Clausen (The Left), Manon Aubry (The Left), Rudi Kennes (The Left), Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE), Jussi Saramo (The Left), Jonas Sjöstedt (The Left), Hanna Gedin (The Left)
(27 March 2025)

Subject: Far-right intimidation at a trial in Budapest

On 6 March 2025, during the trial of Maja T., far-right ‘activists’ gathered at the court in Budapest. Identifiable by their skinhead style and clothing, featuring references to ‘BetyárSereg⁽¹⁾’ and ‘Hatvannégy Vármegye Ifjúsági Mozgalom (HVIM)⁽²⁾’, they harassed attendees arriving for the trial by filming. Photos of attendees were later published online, along with names of some individuals⁽³⁾, as has happened in previous cases⁽⁴⁾. The websites also stated that HVIM had obtained a list of ‘antifascists’ present at the trial and was preparing to share it with other far-right groups abroad.

1. Is the Commission, in the light of its ongoing monitoring of the rule of law in Hungary, in particular judicial independence, aware of these events?
2. Does it consider that the Hungarian authorities allowing this kind of political intimidation constitutes a potential breach of the right to a fair trial and the presumption of innocence?
3. Does it plan to initiate a dialogue with the Hungarian authorities to investigate the political activities unfolding in criminal proceedings, how a list of trial attendees was shared with far-right organisations, and how they intend to ensure a trial without external political pressure?

Submitted: 27.3.2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(5 June 2025)

Publishing online photos and names of members of the audience attending a court hearing and sharing any lists of such attendees constitutes processing of personal data, which must fulfil the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)⁽¹⁾, including the need for a valid legal basis for the processing, such as the data subject’s informed and freely given consent.

The monitoring and enforcement of the application of the GDPR in the Member States falls in the competence of national authorities, in particular data protection authorities and courts.

Without prejudice to its role as guardian of the Treaties, the Commission is not in a position to investigate individual cases of alleged violations of the GDPR or national data protection provisions implementing it.

The Commission promotes and protects fundamental rights by ensuring that legislative, policy and administrative measures falling under EU competence comply with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

However, the Commission has no general powers to intervene with the Member States in the area of fundamental rights. It can only do so if an issue of EU law is involved.

Moreover, issues related to publicity and security during trials such as the one at hand are not regulated under EU law, and are therefore left to the discretion of the Member States.

It is for Member States to ensure that fundamental rights are effectively respected and protected in accordance with their national legislation and international human rights obligations, such as those stemming from the European Convention on Human Rights.

The isolated incident referred to in the question is not directly related to judicial independence.

¹ <https://betyarsereg.hu/felvonult-a-betyarsereg-a-kozponti-birosag-elott-az-antifak-rendori-vedelmet-kertek-video/>.

² <https://www.hvim.hu/in-english>.

³ <https://m.kuruc.info/t/2/285178/>; <https://szentkoronaradio.com/blog/2025/03/07/antifa-terroristak-vagytok-kerdeztek-a-hvim-esek-a-kulfoldiek-et-megszereztek-a-neveiket/>.

⁴ <https://szentkoronaradio.com/blog/2024/02/01/kepek-az-elytarsakrol-ezek-az-antifak-jelentek-meg-a-budapesti-targyalason/>.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1-88.