

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002775/25
to the Commission
Nikola Minchev (Renew), Radan Kanev (PPE)
(8 July 2025)**

Subject: Watering-down of anti-corruption reforms laid down in Bulgaria's NRRP

Upholding the primacy of law by establishing guarantees on the political independence of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (CPC) is one of the basic reforms under the NRRP. The NRRP provides that the members of the CPC be elected by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Bulgarian National Assembly, with a nomination committee consisting of representatives of the institutions, so as to guarantee maximum independence of the process from political influence.

The Constitutional Court has ruled that the requirement of a two-thirds qualified majority in the National Assembly is contrary to the Bulgarian Constitution, which lays down a different approach to ensuring the independence of the CPC.

In the meantime, the majority in the Bulgarian National Assembly has adopted at first reading a draft law significantly watering down the role of the nomination committee by providing that it can also meet in a select committee format. This change will result in even the greater party-political dependence of the CPC on the ruling parties and the parliamentary majority, and is liable to jeopardise the NRRP as an instrument for reform.

We would like to put the following questions:

1. What mechanisms is the Commission considering to compensate for the fact that election of the members of the CPC by qualified majority is no longer a requirement?
2. What view does the Commission take of the scaled-down role of the nomination committee in selecting the CPC and the possibility of it sitting and adopting decisions in a select committee format?
3. Is there a risk that Bulgaria will forfeit funding under the NRRP owing to the desire of those in power to exercise party control over the CPC?

Submitted: 8.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(25 August 2025)**

The Commission closely follows the implementation of the anti-corruption reforms that are covered by the Rule of Law Report and the Bulgarian Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP).

In particular, under the Bulgarian RRP, Bulgaria committed to the establishment of a politically and financially independent anti-corruption body, as well as its operationalisation.

Furthermore, in the context of the European Semester, a recommendation has been addressed to Bulgaria to improve the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures, particularly in high-level corruption cases.

In agreement with the Commission, on 17 April 2025 the Bulgarian authorities withdrew the second payment request under the RRP.

On 23 July 2025, the Bulgarian authorities re-submitted the second payment request, following the Council's approval of the RRP's amendment on 18 July 2025.

The payment request also includes a milestone related to the set-up of a politically and financially independent anti-corruption body. The Commission's assessment of the fulfilment of the milestone against its requirements is ongoing.
