

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002853/25
to the Commission
Erik Kaliňák (NI)
(14 July 2025)

Subject: Is respect for the law an element of the rule of law?

The rule of law is one of the fundamental values of the EU shared by all Member States. Respect for the rule of law must undoubtedly include compliance with both EU and national laws.

1. In this context, how does the Commission view the fact that, on 28 June 2025, several Members of the European Parliament were among the participants in the Budapest Pride Freedom march, which was illegal ⁽¹⁾ under Hungarian law?
2. Does the Commission consider it acceptable for the highest representatives of the EU to deliberately violate a law of a Member State which has not yet been declared invalid or incompatible with EU law by any court?
3. Does the Commission consider it to be in accordance with the rule of law for individuals to disregard valid laws simply because someone (not the competent courts) has described them as undemocratic or discriminatory?

Submitted: 14.7.2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(19 September 2025)

The right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association are fundamental rights and values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU ⁽¹⁾, and in international treaties, such as the European Convention on Human Rights, to which all Member States are party ⁽²⁾.

The Commission remains committed to safeguarding the fundamental rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people, and has expressed its full support and solidarity to the Budapest Pride and to the LGBTIQ+ community.

It is not for the Commission to comment on activities of individual Members of the European Parliament.

Regarding the law passed in Hungary, the Commission is examining the provisions of the law from the perspective of the implications it may have under EU law. The Commission services have contacted the Hungarian authorities requesting clarifications on the relevant provisions. The Commission will consider all the steps necessary to safeguard EU law, as appropriate.

¹ <https://www.euronews.com/2025/06/29/budapest-pride-unprecedented-crowd-defies-hungarian-government-at-illegal-march>

⁽¹⁾ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, OJ C 326/391, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12012P/TXT>.

⁽²⁾ Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.