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E-004006/2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.12.2025)

The freedom of assembly, association and expression are fundamental rights enshrined in Articles 11 and 12 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights¹. The Commission promotes and protects fundamental rights by ensuring that all legislative, policy and administrative measures falling under EU competence comply with the Charter.

As set out in previous replies², the Commission condemns any disproportionate use of force or violence. Any use of force by law enforcement authorities must always be proportionate and controlled.

The maintenance of law and order and the safeguarding of internal security in the Member States, including policing laws and the regulation of demonstrations, fall within national competence. It is for Member States to ensure that fundamental rights are protected. National authorities must investigate cases of reported police brutality and ensure that justice is served. The Commission is not allowed to intervene in national judiciary decisions.

The Commission monitors the situation of the rule of law in all Member States and can make recommendations in that respect, which can also relate to the application of bans or other restrictions of protests and policing practices³.

The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) provides training activities with the aim of promoting common respect for, and understanding of, fundamental rights in law enforcement, including police ethics and integrity. The Justice and Home Affairs Agencies have created a Fundamental Rights toolkit shared with Member States' national authorities to ensure that a fundamental rights approach is applied in national training activities.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng.

² E-003732/2020, E-005750/2020, E-006692/2020, E-001857/2021, E-003458/2021 and E-000040/2022.

³ The most recent Rule of Law Report was published on 8 July 2025:

https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2025-rule-law-report-communication-and-country-chapters_en