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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.2.2026)

Building democratic resilience requires reinforced efforts at all levels of government, among EU institutions, Member States, and the whole society. It is essential that these efforts are brought together to boost the EU's collective capacity to protect democracy from threats and strengthen democratic resilience. In the Joint Communication on the European Democracy Shield¹, presented on 12 November 2025, the Commission has laid out the aims of the European Centre for Democratic Resilience.

The organisation and conduct of elections is the competence of the Member States, in line with their national law and relevant EU and international law. The Commission supports them in this field, notably through the European Cooperation Network on Elections. Work under the Centre will not seek to influence national electoral processes.

The Centre will act as a framework to strengthen coordination and information sharing between participating Member States and EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, and support operational cooperation and capacity building. Its development will be progressive, based on Member States' voluntary participation and their input and needs for support and cooperation. It will fully respect the allocation of competences between the EU and its Member States and the independence of existing structures at national and EU level.

The Centre will be supported by and work in close coordination with the Rapid Alert System managed by the European External Action Service (EEAS), an established mechanism to exchange information on foreign information manipulation and interference and disinformation between EU institutions and Member States.

The Commission does not see the relevance of the case-law referred to by the Honourable Members in this case. The cooperation with Member States under the Centre will be organised in the framework of a Special Group² and the Centre will be supported by a secretariat managed by the Commission with the participation of the EEAS.

¹ COM(2025)791 final.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups-explained?lang=en>.