

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000680/26
to the Commission**

**António Tânger Corrêa (Pfe), Fabrice Leggeri (Pfe), Csaba Dömötör (Pfe), Jaroslav Bžoch (Pfe), Virginie Joron (Pfe),
Hermann Tertsch (Pfe), Christine Anderson (ESN), Petar Volgin (ESN)**
(17 February 2026)

Subject: Commission's unilateral creation of the European Centre for Democratic Resilience: legitimacy, transparency and Parliament's role

On 10 February 2026, during the European Union Democracy Shield Committee technical meeting with Commission representatives, the political groups were informed that the European Centre for Democratic Resilience had already started its tasks. They were also informed that the Centre was being supported by a secretariat hosted in the DG COMM premises in the Commission, and that the Centre's official launch would take place on 24 February during the General Affairs Council.

Parliament has neither been consulted nor has voted or given its opinion on this matter. The Commission never communicated a precise timeline for implementation or informed Parliament about the Centre's framework, responsibilities, funding or staff.

What is most concerning is the Commission's disregard for Parliament's European Democracy Shield report currently being negotiated.

1. Is it legitimate for the Commission to unilaterally establish an institutional oversight body?
2. In the interests of transparency, can the Commission explain how the decision to establish such a centre was taken, when it was decided, and who decided on the Centre's responsibilities and framework?
3. On what basis is the Commission bypassing Parliament in this process, considering the ongoing negotiations that might not even endorse the Centre?

Submitted: 17.2.2026

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(8 April 2026)

The creation of the European Centre for Democratic Resilience was announced in the Joint Communication on the European Democracy Shield (EDS) ⁽¹⁾, after extensive consultations with Member States, EU institutions, as well as the public. The European Parliament and its Special Committee on the EDS significantly contributed to the design of the EDS and the Centre.

The Centre, its framework and responsibilities, is being set up in close consultation with Member States. As outlined in the European Democracy Shield, its aim is to offer a framework to strengthen coordination and information sharing between EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, and Member States, building on existing networks and structures, such as the Rapid Alert System.

This is done in full respect of the allocation of competences provided for in the Treaties and the independence of existing structures at national and EU level. Participation is voluntary. The Centre is not an EU institutional oversight body, nor will it have decision-making powers.

The Commission will continue to engage with the European Parliament, notably the Special Committee on the EDS, as it is progressing with the setting up of the Centre and the implementation of the measures announced in the EDS.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025JC0791>.