(English version)

Question for written answer E-000925/26
to the Commission

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(5 March 2026)

Subject: Anti-fascist movements and political violence — the real threat to democracy

The European Union plans to strengthen its ‘democratic shield’, which it presents as an instrument to protect the rule of law, pluralism and the free exercise of political activities.

However, in France, numerous acts of violence attributed to groups claiming to be ‘anti-fascist’ have targeted activists engaged in political or metapolitical activities and participating in lawful public debate. These actions are not about a confrontation of ideas, but about intimidation aimed at silencing legitimate opinions. By targeting citizens who are peacefully expressing their opinions, this violence undermines people’s safety and the very conditions for effective democratic pluralism.

On 14 February 2026, one of these assaults resulted in the death of a 23-year-old activist for the national cause. That attack raises a twofold question: about public security and about protecting democratic debate.

In this regard, can the Commission:

1. state whether such violence falls within the scope of the ‘democratic shield’?

2. specify what action it intends to take to guarantee protection of political activities and lawful public debate?

3. state whether it is specifically monitoring political violence, whatever its ideological origin?

Supporter ([1])

Submitted: 5.3.2026

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission

(29 April 2026)

The Commission condemns all forms of political violence, which undermine the fundamental values of democracy, pluralism and the rule of law enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union. Violent acts demonstrate the need to protect the civic space and ensure that all citizens can participate in public debate without fear of intimidation or violence.

It is important to highlight that Member States are solely competent for maintaining law and order and safeguarding internal security, including as regards the protection of citizens from politically motivated violence and attacks.

A priority of the European Democracy Shield ([1]) is to strengthen the fairness and integrity of electoral and other democratic processes and, in this context, to better ensure the safety of political candidates and elected representatives, including through a dedicated Commission recommendation and a guide of best practices, which are under preparation in the framework of the European Cooperation Network on Elections.

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[1] This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Catherine Griset (PfE).

([1]) https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/2539eb53-9485-4199-bfdc-97166893ff45_en?filename=JUST_template_comingsoon_standard_1.pdf.