

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001154/26
to the Commission
Yvan Verougstraete (Renew), Sandro Gozi (Renew)
(19 March 2026)**

Subject: Revision of the Treaties in response to breaches of the rule of law in Hungary

Recent developments in Hungary are raising serious concerns regarding the EU's ability to ensure respect for its fundamental values, as set out in Article 2 TEU.

Despite the activation of existing mechanisms, notably Article 7 TEU and the Rule of Law Conditionality Mechanism, these instruments seem insufficient to prevent institutional deadlocks and ensure a swift and credible response to persistent violations.

The actions of the government led by Viktor Orbán illustrate the limitations of the current framework and fuel the debate on the need to bolster the EU's legal and political tools.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission feel that the current instruments are sufficient to ensure effective compliance with EU values in the event of systematic violations committed by a Member State?
2. Does it intend to back a revision of the Treaties (Article 48 TEU) with a view to strengthening protection of the rule of law and avoiding institutional deadlocks (Article 7 TEU)?
3. Does it consider that additional financial measures could be considered, in particular through broader use of existing budgetary mechanisms?

Submitted: 19.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(20 July 2026)**

The Commission considers that the Treaties provide a high level of protection of EU values and are complemented by a variety of instruments under EU law that ensure respect and protection of the EU values.

Respect for the rule of law is essential for receiving and using EU funds. When implementing the EU budget, Member States and the Commission must ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ⁽¹⁾ and respect for EU values.

Existing EU rules protect the EU budget against breaches of the rule of law and of the Charter. Significant amounts of funding for Hungary have been blocked under the Conditionality Regulation ⁽²⁾, the Charter horizontal enabling condition of the Common Provisions Regulation ⁽³⁾, and the Recovery and Resilience Facility ⁽⁴⁾. The Commission is engaging constructively with the new Hungarian government to help address outstanding rule of law concerns.

The importance of the respect for EU values is also reflected in the Commission proposal for a regulation on national and regional partnership plans under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034, based on a combination of financial support for measures aimed at strengthening the rule of law and fundamental rights together with strong safeguards and conditionalities to ensure the protection of the EU budget.

The Conditionality Regulation will remain in force under the MFF 2028-2034 and applies to breaches of the principles of the rule of law affecting the EU budget. The Commission shall use that regulation if the relevant conditions are met, unless other procedures set out in EU legislation would allow it to protect the EU budget more effectively. The Commission continuously evaluates the situation in all Member States and is prepared to use all the applicable tools.

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

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/2092/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1060/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02021R0241-20240301>.