

EN
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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
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As enshrined in Articles 2 and 10 of the Treaty on European Union, democracy is a founding value on which the EU is built. Free and fair elections are at the core of democracy.

The Commission does not have a general power to intervene in electoral matters of the Member States. The conduct and the organisation of elections are the competence and responsibility of the Member States, in accordance with their national constitutional and legislative rules, while respecting their international obligations and EU law. National competent authorities and courts have the primary responsibility of ensuring compliance with these rules.

Electoral procedure is not specifically included in the scope of the annual Rule of Law Report. The Commission supports Member States' efforts to ensure free and fair elections, particularly through the European Cooperation Network on Elections¹, and relying on its Recommendation on inclusive and resilient electoral processes in the Union².

To address the growing and evolving challenges to democracies across the EU, the Commission adopted the European Democracy Shield in November 2025³.

In this context, among other initiatives, the Commission will develop a repository of common references and standards for electoral processes, based primarily on exchanges within the European Cooperation Network on Elections.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/democracy-eu-citizenship-anti-corruption/democracy-and-electoral-rights/european-cooperation-network-elections_en.

² Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/2829 of 12 December 2023 on inclusive and resilient electoral processes in the Union and enhancing the European nature and efficient conduct of the elections to the European Parliament, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2023/2829/oj/eng>.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/2539eb53-9485-4199-bfdc-97166893ff45_en?filename=JUST_template_comingsoon_standard_1.pdf.