

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003265/26
to the Commission
Alexander Jungbluth (ESN)
(12 August 2026)**

Subject: AfD members being excluded from local elections in Germany

Following the exclusion of several AfD members from local elections in Rhineland-Palatinate and North Rhine-Westphalia, a large number of AfD candidates have now been prevented from running in the local elections on 13 September 2026 by the electoral committees in Lower Saxony. The candidates in question are Member of the Lower House of the German Parliament Martin Sichert (Friesland council election), Member of the State Parliament Thorsten Moriße (Wilhelmshaven mayoral election), Justin Vogel (Herzberg am Harz mayoral election) and Reinhild Goes (Nörten-Hardenberg mayoral election). What's different about the situation in Lower Saxony is that the decision has been made on the basis of the new local election law adopted in April 2026 by the SPD-Green state government, which provides that, in cases of doubt regarding loyalty to the constitution, recommendations from the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and the Ministry of the Interior may be taken into account — although the AfD has not been banned.

1. Does the Commission consider the exclusion of democratically elected party representatives from local elections solely based on the fact that they are part of the AfD to be a possible violation of fundamental democratic principles of the EU?
2. What does it make of this case, considering that it effectively constitutes an exclusion of a party through the back door, when such a decision should be the sole responsibility of the Federal Constitutional Court?
3. In view of the above, will it consider initiating a procedure under Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) against Germany?

Submitted: 12.8.2026

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(2 October 2026)**

It is the Member States' competence to lay down the specific conditions for the conduct and organisation of local elections, in accordance with their constitutional and legislative rules, subject to EU law and their international obligations.

German competent authorities and courts are primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with these rules and addressing any potential irregularities, in accordance with their well-established procedures.

The Commission does not comment on individual decisions taken by national authorities, such as local election committees, regarding the disqualification of candidates from standing in elections.
