

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001548/24
to the Commission
Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Renew)
(26 August 2024)**

Subject: Suspected violation of human rights through the use of state institutions as a tool for exerting pressure

Reports have recently emerged of biased checks being conducted by state bodies in Bulgaria — such as the Ministry of the Interior (General Directorate for Combating Organised Crime (GDBOP)), the Anti-Corruption Commission (KPK), the Public Finances Inspection Agency (ADFI) and the National Revenue Agency (NAP) — in municipalities run by representatives of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS) political party, and in the homes and among the families of its members and workers, which raises concerns over the abuse of power and the use of state institutions as a tool for exerting pressure in the run-up to the early parliamentary elections.

1. Is the Commission aware, in the context of its annual monitoring of the state of the rule of law, of this sudden increase in targeted action by the state authorities against the representatives of a particular party?
2. What steps will the Commission take to put an immediate stop to such activities, which clearly violate the fundamental principles of the rule of law and undermine democracy in Bulgaria?
3. Will the Commission ask Bulgaria for clarifications on what is happening and on the use of the state institutions as a political tool for the purpose of repression?

Submitted: 26.8.2024

**Answer given by Mr Reynders on behalf of the European Commission
(10 October 2024)**

The Commission is following the situation in Bulgaria and is in a constant dialogue with the Bulgarian authorities to promote the rule of law within the framework of the comprehensive annual rule of law cycle.

The 2024 Rule of Law Report, published on 24 July 2024, presents developments and recommendations related to the rule of law in the Member States of the EU and includes a dedicated country chapter on all 27 Member States, including Bulgaria ⁽¹⁾.

In the particular case of Bulgaria, the 2024 report notes that concerns have been raised as to the functioning and independence of certain regulatory and independent authorities in the country.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2024-rule-law-report-communication-and-country-chapters_en