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Answer given by Mr McGrath
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.1.2025)

Regarding an extension of the current General Regime of Conditionality, the Commission is not in a position to make specific commitments in relation to possible legislative proposals. In the exercise of its right of initiative, the Commission follows the better regulation principles when preparing a legislative proposal. The outcome of this process can therefore not be prejudged.

Since 2020, the Commission examines rule of law developments in all Member States on a continuous basis through the Rule of Law Report. Five years on, the preparedness of Member States, and of the EU as a whole, to detect, prevent and address emerging challenges has greatly improved. The Rule of Law Report is prepared based on a well-established, transparent methodology that considers different sources. External expertise and input from a variety of international organisations and EU agencies, as well as the Council of Europe and the Fundamental Rights Agency, constitute valuable sources for the Commission's assessment. The Commission takes full responsibility for the assessment and recommendations presented in the Report.

Respect for the rule of law is key for the functioning of the single market and for a business environment that fosters investment and innovation. All aspects of the rule of law currently covered by the annual Rule of Law Report are also relevant for the business environment. The Commission has different instruments at its disposal to ensure compliance with EU law and the functioning of the single market, including monitoring tools such as the Single Market and Competitiveness Scoreboard, as well as the possibility to initiate infringement proceedings.