

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001558/25
to the Commission
Dan Barna (Renew)
(16 April 2025)**

Subject: Romanian Electoral Bureau censoring private citizens' free speech, misusing Regulation (EU) 2024/900

Over the past ten days, the Romanian Electoral Bureau has ordered the removal of more than 160 ⁽¹⁾ social media posts by private citizens, under the pretence that they are considered political actors as defined under Regulation (EU) 2024/900.

Some of these are known figures such as judges or publicists, while others are regular citizens expressing legitimate political views.

None of them are members of any political party, they do not act in the name of a party and/or candidate and none of them are in any way politically affiliated.

Furthermore, Article 3, paragraph 4, point (g) of the regulation clearly defines natural persons as political actors if they are 'representing or acting on behalf of any of the persons or organisations referred to in points (a) to (f), and promoting the political objectives of any of those persons or organisations.'

In this context:

1. Does the interpretation of the Romanian Electoral Bureau exceed the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2024/900?
2. What safeguards are in place to monitor such abusive censorship in the Member States? What corrective measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure the immediate cessation of such censorship?

Submitted: 16.4.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(3 July 2025)**

Democracy is a founding value of the EU. Elections are at the core of democracy and should be fair and free from any interference.

The organisation and the conduct of elections are the competence and responsibility of the Member States, in accordance with their national constitutional rules and legislation, as well as their international obligations and EU law.

National authorities and courts are primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with the applicable rules. The Commission has no competence to intervene in the organisation and conduct of national elections.

The Commission supports Member States on electoral matters, mainly through the framework of the European cooperation network on elections ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission is also working with Member States to support the application of EU law provisions relevant in national electoral contexts, such as those in the Digital Services Act ⁽²⁾ and Regulation (EU) 2024/900 ⁽³⁾ on the transparency and targeting of political advertising ('the regulation'). According to Article 30 of the regulation, it applies fully from 10 October 2025.

The Commission is fully committed to ensuring and supporting the entry into full application of the regulation and will, once the regulation fully applies, monitor its enforcement by national competent authorities.

¹ <https://www.g4media.ro/moment-critic-pentru-democratie-cenzura-reinstaurata-de-o-institutie-a-statului-cum-a-ajuns-biroul-electoral-central-sa-limiteze-illegal-libertatea-de-exprimare.html>.

⁽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⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32022R2065>. In 2024, the Commission issued Guidelines for providers of Very Large Online Platforms and Very Large Online Search Engines on the mitigation of systemic risks for electoral processes, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024XC03014&qid=1714466886277>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/900/oj/eng>.