

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002053/25
to the Commission
Jean-Paul Garraud (P/E)
(21 May 2025)**

Subject: Request for clarification concerning France's possible interference in the 2025 Romanian presidential election

Following the recent presidential election in Romania, the runner-up, nationalist candidate George Simion, publicly made accusations of foreign interference. He spoke of external influence, in particular from France, which affected the conduct and fairness of the ballot.

These statements have been backed up in remarks made by Valérie Hayer, Chair of Parliament's Renew Europe Group, who admitted to having organised meetings in France for the Romanian diaspora to encourage them to vote ⁽¹⁾.

Furthermore, according to Pavel Durov, founder of the platform Telegram, there has been pressure coming from Paris to censor certain conservative Romanian voices. If these accusations prove to be true, it would pose a serious problem with regard to the principles of non-interference and democratic equality between candidates in a Member State or EU candidate country.

In view of the above:

1. Has the Commission been informed of such actions by French politicians or institutions?
2. Do such initiatives align with the principles of neutrality and non-interference promoted by the EU?
3. Will it request official explanations from the French authorities or open an independent investigation to assess the impact of these incidences on the electoral process in Romania?

Submitted: 21.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(30 June 2025)**

The organisation and 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 applicable EU law. National authorities and courts are primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with the applicable rules.

On 22 May 2025, the Romanian's Constitutional Court formally validated the outcome of the 2025 Romanian Presidential elections.

The Commission does not intervene in the organisation and conduct of elections.

The Commission supports Member States on electoral matters, mainly through the framework of the European cooperation network on elections ⁽¹⁾, which hosts exchanges among competent authorities, for instance on good practices to support turnout.

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⁾, the regulation 2024/900 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising ⁽³⁾ (which will apply in full from October 2025), the General Data Protection Regulation ⁽⁴⁾ and the Artificial Intelligence Act ⁽⁵⁾.

These measures help ensure fundamental rights, including data protection, freedom of expression and information.

¹ <https://x.com/franceinfo/status/1921096329398190324>

⁽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>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj/eng>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng>.