



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR JUSTICE AND CONSUMERS
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Directorate JUST.C – Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights and Democracy
Unit JUST.C.1 – Rule of Law

Directorate SG.E – Citizens, Health, Migration & Security Union
Unit SG.E.1 – Citizens, Equality, Democracy & Rule of Law

Brussels
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MRAZ Ágoston
Email: mraz@nezopont.hu

Dear Mr Mráz,

Thank you for your letter sent in the name of four organisations that participated in the Rule of Law country visit to Hungary in February 2023 and for your follow up e-mail email of 6 July 2023. We would like to apologise for the delayed response.

The methodology underlying the Commission's annual Rule of Law Reports has been carefully developed to ensure completeness and objectivity¹. Information gathering relies on a variety of sources. In the first place, Member State authorities are invited to provide written contributions and join in dedicated country visits. For these country visits, the Commission organises on average more than 500 online meetings with national authorities, independent bodies and stakeholders, including civil society organisations. This is complemented by a targeted stakeholder consultation. The Council of Europe also provides an overview of its opinions and reports on EU Member States. Contacts with Member States continue throughout the process, with the opportunity to provide factual updates on their country chapter shortly before they are finalised.

In your letter and your email you express concerns about an alleged conflict of interest resulting from the participation of a Commission official in the process of the preparation of the Hungarian country chapter of the 2023 Rule of Law Report. You have also raised this concern during the country visit itself.

As already explained to you directly during the country visit, the Rule of Law Report is not a report of one individual. The analysis and conclusions drawn on all Member States are a collective exercise. The Rule of Law Report is a Commission report, adopted by the College of Commissioners, prepared collectively by a high number of Commission staff and based on an inclusive and collaborative process.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/23aa1ee2-5a5c-4444-a68e-ef8517288eba_en?filename=64_1_194485_rol_methodology_en.pdf

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Yours faithfully,

Florian GEYER

(e-signed)

Julien MOUSNIER

(e-signed)