

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
The Chairman

IPOL-COM-LIBE D (2023) 39235

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To the Chairperson(s) of the committee(s) concerned

Honourable Chairperson,

Since 2016, the European Parliament has called for a comprehensive and preventive mechanism in the field of Rule of Law, via an EU mechanism on Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights (EU DRF Pact).

This position was reinforced by the Parliament resolution of 7 October 2020 on the establishment of an EU mechanism on Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights, that called for a wide-ranging mechanism, to be governed by an interinstitutional agreement between the Parliament, the Council and the Commission. This resolution foresees an Annual Monitoring Cycle on Union Values, covering all aspects of Article 2 TEU and in this context, it recognises the indispensable role of national parliaments and calls on them to hold public debates and adopt positions on the outcome of the rule of law monitoring cycles. The resolution also provides for the organisation of annual interparliamentary debates on the findings of the Annual Report.

On 5 July 2023, the Commission published its fourth annual Rule of Law Report that presents the state of play of the situation in Member States as regards the rule of law. The Commission has noted that its report has been discussed with national parliaments.

Against this background, and considering the importance of this issue, the LIBE Committee would like to **invite Members of national parliaments to an inter-parliamentary committee meeting on “The situation of the Rule of Law in the EU”**. The meeting is scheduled on **Monday, 4 December 2023, from 14h00 to 17h00**, in the European Parliament premises in Brussels.

The interparliamentary committee meeting will be dedicated to an assessment of the fourth Commission’s rule of law report with a specific emphasis on combating corruption. The meeting will serve as a follow up on previous such interparliamentary meetings, including the one which took place in December 2022, as well as on the Parliament’s resolution of 30 March 2023 on the Commission’s 2022 Rule of Law Report. The meeting will also serve as input into the ongoing work on the LIBE own-initiative report on the Commission’s 2023 Rule of Law Report.

In view of the above, this meeting would provide the occasion for in-depth exchange of views on the rule of law situation in the EU and on the role of national parliaments in the context of the EU efforts to protect and enforce the Union values. The participation of the Commission and Council Presidency should also be envisaged to bring the inter-institutional perspective into the discussions, in line with our institution’s approach for an EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights.

I am therefore pleased to invite up to four Members of the relevant committee(s) from each national Parliament (two from each Chamber in the case of bi-cameral Parliaments) to attend this meeting in the premises of the European Parliament.

Should you be unable to attend, I would welcome any written contribution, which would be distributed to our respective Members and other participants.

The practical details concerning the meeting will be forwarded in due course to your Parliament's services for relations with the European Parliament.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to accept this invitation and I am looking forward to your participation in this event on 4 December 2023.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Juan F. López Aguilar", followed by a horizontal line.

Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR

Annex: draft programme