

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
The Chairman

IPOL-COM-LIBE D (2022) 34352

D 103730 28.10.2022

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 inter-institutional 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 inter-parliamentary debates on the findings of the Annual Report.

In July 2022, the Commission published its third annual Rule of Law Report that presents the state of play of the situation in Member States as regards the rule of law. Further engagement of national parliaments to develop and promote awareness about the challenges to rule of law is also raised in this Communication.

Against this background, and considering the importance of the matter, 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 **Thursday, 1 December 2022, from 14h30 to 17h30**, in the European Parliament premises in Brussels.

The inter-parliamentary committee meeting will be dedicated to an assessment of the third Commission’s rule of law report in the context of the Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights (DRF) mechanism and in the light of the Parliament’s resolutions of 24 June 2021 and 19 May 2022 on the Commission’s 2020 and 2021 Rule of Law Reports. The exchanges would serve as input into the ongoing work on the second monitoring report within LIBE. The meeting follows those organised in November 2020 and in December 2021 on the first and second annual rule of law reports of the Commission.

Furthermore, it 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 Commission and Council Presidency will be invited as well for offering an inter-institutional perspective into the discussions.

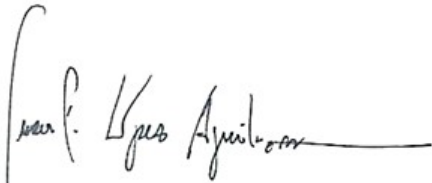
I am therefore pleased to invite up to four Members of the relevant committee(s) from each national Parliament (two from each Chamber in the case of bi-cameral Parliaments) to attend this meeting.

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

Practical and technical details concerning the connection regarding 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 1 December 2022.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Juan F. López Aguilar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR

Annex: draft programme