



**Draft**

**Title:** **Rule of law is at the core of the European Union – We need to protect it**

**Tabled by:** Greens in EP + Partia Zieloni

**Draft text**

1 Democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights are at the very core of the  
2 European Union. However, these values have come under attack in recent years.

3 All over Europe, right-wing parties are attacking the rule of law and  
4 minorities. And while they have managed to achieve worrying electoral results in  
5 France, Germany, Sweden and other European countries, they have already been  
6 successful in others, like Poland or Hungary.

7 These attacks follow a common pattern. They attack minorities, like LGBTI and  
8 women, under the pretence of protecting family values, stripping away their  
9 rights of self-determination and expression. The independence of the judiciary  
10 is the next to be adversely affected, freedom of press and other media gets  
11 restricted, and academics and NGOs are obstructed in their work. Even the  
12 environmental dimension of rule of law has come under attack, with a record  
13 number of infringements of European law on environmental protection and limiting  
14 the ability of civil societies to control and protest national environmental  
15 policies.

16 The EGP heavily criticises these developments and calls, in particular but not  
17 only, the Polish and Hungarian governments to stop their attack on the rule of  
18 law, democracy and fundamental rights. At the same time, we support the civil  
19 movement that is fighting against these developments and we stand in solidarity  
20 with the people of Hungary and Poland.

21 The EGP calls on the European Parliament, the European Commission and the  
22 European Council to continue and intensify their fight against these tendencies  
23 and to follow through when it comes to defending the rule of law, democracy and  
24 fundamental rights.

25 In particular, as the EGP we:

26 - Demand the establishment of an EU Mechanism on Democracy, the Rule of Law and  
27 Fundamental Rights. It needs a comprehensive approach to the rule of  
28 law, democracy and fundamental rights to replace the current patchwork of  
29 inefficient instruments split across different fields.

30 - Push for the Multiannual Financial Framework(MFF) to include a strong rule-of-  
31 law conditionality, which can actually be triggered, to ensure that EU money is  
32 not spent on projects that do not respect the rule of law and fundamental rights  
33 while, at the same time, foresees safeguards for final recipients and  
34 beneficiaries.

35 - Call on the European Commission to take a more proactive role in defending the  
36 rule of law and acting on the findings of the annual rule of law report, as well  
37 as following up and starting infringement procedures where Member States fail to  
38 implement EU law with regard to the rule of law and fundamental rights.

39 - Will push for the protection of fundamental rights, including in Poland and  
40 Hungary, in particular, the right to a fair trial, the right to information and  
41 freedom of expression, including media freedom and pluralism, academic freedom,  
42 freedom of assembly and freedom of association.

43 - Insist on the crucial importance of the proper functioning of the legislative  
44 and electoral system and the importance of the separation of powers and  
45 constitutional checks. In particular, we call on the Polish parliament and  
46 government to ensure that the legislative and electoral system is fair and the  
47 constitutional powers are used in line with the standards of the rule of law.

48 - Support the LGBTI community in its fight for acceptance and call on the Polish  
49 government to protect LGBTI rights in Poland. We also call on the European  
50 Commission to launch an infringement procedure to stop the self-declaration of  
51 LGBTI-free zones in Poland.

- 52 - Strongly condemn the attack on women's rights, especially the continued  
53 attempts to abolish crucial parts of the abortion law in Poland.
- 54 - Recognise the right of NGOs in Poland and Hungary, as well as in other EU  
55 countries, to be funded and supported directly by EU institutions and funds. Any  
56 attempt by national governments to cut funding opportunities must be prohibited  
57 as this is a way to restrict the development of civil society and democracy.
- 58 - Support the efforts of civil society to apply its right to receive  
59 environmental information that is withheld by public authorities and to  
60 participate in preparing plans, programmes, policies and legislation that may  
61 affect the environment, as stated in the Aarhus Convention. Especially in the  
62 times of climate crisis, the exploitation of nature cannot be treated as a  
63 source of income for the EU Member States. The implementation of special acts  
64 and other legal instruments that limit citizens' influence on environmental  
65 policies must be stopped.