



Draft

Title: **Anti-corruption, transparency and participation need to be at the heart of distributing EU funds**

Tabled by: Committee, European Green Party

Draft text

1 In recent years, the EU has experienced a crisis in the rule of law whereby the
2 values of political integrity have been seriously undermined in several Member
3 States. Attacks on the rule of law have emerged in different forms, including
4 high-level corruption, issues of conflict of interest and a decline in
5 transparent decision-making, accountability and trust.

6 EU institutions and Member States must act to prevent these dangers from
7 becoming systemic. This means not only acting according to the Treaties and
8 filling the implementation gap between anti-corruption rules and enforcement,
9 but also investing in anti-corruption activities. This involves improving the
10 rules, strengthening the responsible institutional bodies, and widening the
11 participation of civil society in anti-corruption efforts.

12 With the enlargement of EU funds, monitoring and anti-corruption mechanisms must
13 also be expanded. The European Commission's Resilience and Recovery Facility
14 (RRF), Modernisation Fund, Just Transition Fund (JTF) and other tools to boost
15 post-pandemic recovery and climate transition provide a significant opportunity
16 to contribute to the necessary change. The threat of misusing public money is
17 not only endangering the mission of these funds but is also feeding into anti-
18 European narratives. Therefore, the European Greens are calling on the European
19 Commission (EC) and Member States to:

- 20 • Make EU spending conditional on respecting the rule of law as a basic
21 condition. Abusing the rule of law is threatening our values so the EC

22 must take decisive action and use its powers to uphold EU values and
23 protect the Union budget. This must be a red line for all EU institutions.

- 24 • To profoundly assess and delay, where required, approval of the national
25 recovery plan for the RRF until concrete anti-corruption measures are put
26 in place.

- 27 • Systematically oversee the openness of the decision-making process,
28 transparency framework and level of public participation in the JTF, the
29 Modernisation Fund and the RRF.

- 30 • The objectives of the JTF will only be achieved if communities are
31 involved in the process at the highest level. Use of these funds must be
32 an output of social dialogue between communities, businesses, different
33 levels of government, civil society, and trade unions, ensuring the
34 creation of new green industries and new green jobs.

- 35 • During the COVID-19 pandemic, some governments further curtailed the
36 accessibility of information of public interest with measures such as
37 greatly increasing the time frame for answering requests for information
38 held by public authorities. Therefore, the European Commission must ensure
39 that the distribution of funds is the subject of unobstructed freedom of
40 and access to public information.

- 41 • The state of public contracting and procurement contributes to the general
42 transparency framework. We call for a strengthening of the disclosure
43 requirements so that the general public has unobstructed access ultimately
44 to the beneficial ownership information for all beneficiaries, including
45 the use of various legal instruments and improving the interoperability of
46 data among EU countries.

- 47 • We also call for the open contracting measures to be reinforced with tools
48 such as open contracting catalogues, which are currently in place in
49 several Member States. Obligatory publishing of all public bodies'
50 contracts in open-data formats contributes to improving the quality of
51 public procurement and to greater transparency overall on the spending of
52 public funds.

- 53 • We call for the greater engagement of citizens in decision-making,

54 monitoring and accountability. Participation in activities such as the
55 Open Government Partnership provides a good framework for planning,
56 implementing and assessing anti-corruption, transparency and participation
57 measures. In this Partnership, governments and civil society co-create
58 two-year action plans, with concrete commitments across a broad range of
59 issues. This model enables civil society organisations to help shape and
60 oversee the necessary measures.