



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.11.2019
C(2019) 8208 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Bundesrat for its Opinion on the Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council – Further strengthening the Rule of Law within the Union: a blueprint for action {COM(2019) 343 final}.

The Communication presents a number of concrete proposals for the way forward on strengthening the rule of law within the Union, including an annual ‘rule of law review cycle’ with an annual rule of law report. The proposed review cycle should be seen as a preventive tool, aiming at identifying problems which could give rise to significant rule of law problems if unresolved and at creating a space for dialogue.

The Commission follows closely the discussions in the Council on the review of the Rule of Law dialogue and between Member States on a Peer Review for the rule of law, an initiative sponsored by Germany and Belgium. It welcomes any initiatives that can play a role in better promoting the rule of law in all the Member States while avoiding unnecessary duplication. The respect for the rule of law is a national matter but it is also an EU matter – as has also become clear from recent case law of the European Court of Justice. It is therefore also the responsibility of EU institutions to address these issues in the EU institutional framework. We need to work together to ensure synergies as we have a common interest in resolving problems.

The Commission welcomes the continued participation of the Bundesrat in the rule of law debate, as the national Parliaments play a key role in ensuring the rule of law in Member States, both as lawmakers and in holding the executive accountable. It looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

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First Vice-President*

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