



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 4.2.2020
C(2020) 570 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senat 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, State of play and possible next steps {COM(2019) 163 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 to identify problems which could give rise to significant rule of law problems if unresolved and to create a space for dialogue. The Commission welcomes the general support of the Senat for a preventive mechanism, as well as for actions to promote a common rule of law culture.

This approach was reinforced in the political guidelines of President von der Leyen, which call for an additional comprehensive rule of law mechanism with an EU-wide scope and objective annual reporting for all Member States by the Commission.

The Commission monitoring will be done in close dialogue with national authorities. This new way forward brings transparency, allows early detection and offers targeted support to resolve any issues at an early stage. The Commission’s objective is to find a solution that protects the rule of law, in cooperation and mutual support, but without ruling out an effective, proportionate and dissuasive response as a last resort.

The Commission welcomes the participation of the Senat in the rule of law debate. National Parliaments play a key role in upholding the rule of law in the Member States, both as lawmakers and in holding the executive accountable.

*Mr Titus CORLĂȚEAN
Vice - President of the Senat
Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 1-3, sector 5
RO – 050711 BUCHAREST*

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Senat in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Didier Reynders
Member of the Commission*