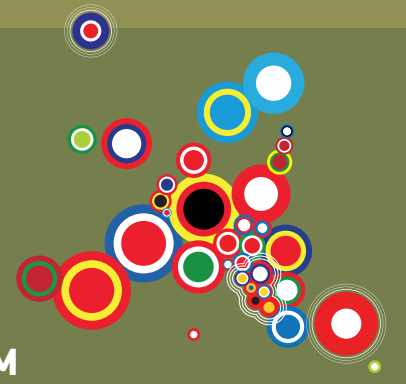




Rule of Law



THE RULE OF LAW IS AT THE HEART OF THE ENLARGEMENT PROCESS. COUNTRIES WISHING TO JOIN THE EU MUST FIRST TACKLE ISSUES SUCH AS JUDICIAL REFORM AND THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME AND CORRUPTION.

BEFORE THEY CAN JOIN THE EU, ASPIRANT COUNTRIES NEED TO ENSURE:



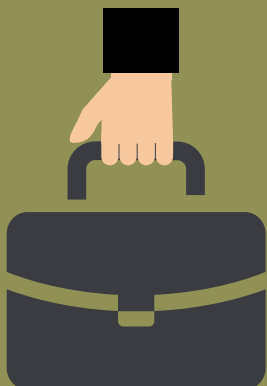
Prevention of and fight against **CORRUPTION**.
Corruption undermines democratic values, has a negative impact on economic development and devalues education and professional standards.



Transparent, efficient, and fair **LAW-MAKING**: laws must be clear, publicised, stable, fair, and protect fundamental rights.



Effective and impartial **JUDICIAL SYSTEM**. This includes guaranteed access to justice, fair trial procedures, adequate funding for courts and training for magistrates and legal practitioners.



Stable **BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT**, providing legal certainty for businesses, stimulating investment, jobs and growth.



Active fight against **ORGANISED CRIME**, including arms, drugs, trafficking in human beings, as well as financial, cyber and environmental crime.