

Ordinary Resolution Nr. 4

"For an EU that continues to uphold the Rule of Law" - tabled by Partido Popular (Spain)
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Dolors

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There is no EU nor any other democracy without the Rule of Law; there is no Rule of Law without the separation of powers; and there is no separation of powers without judicial independence. Respect for principles such as legality, equality before the law, legal certainty, judicial independence, press freedom, and transparency is fundamental. In light of recent challenges, it is crucial to reinforce these principles, combat attempts to weaken checks and balances, and protect the fundamental rights of citizens.

We commit to upholding the Rule of Law both within and outside the EU. In response to any democratic backsliding, we will promote legislative and diplomatic measures **that strengthen the Rule of Law, democracy, and fundamental rights.**

We reject attempts to politically instrumentalise or interfere with the judiciary and the Public Prosecutor's Office, especially in Spain and Slovenia. We denounce the use of "ad hominem" legislative reforms, parliamentary commissions investigating alleged cases of "lawfare", and mass data control laws. We advocate for legal frameworks that protect judges from political pressure.

We urge Member States to avoid the abuse of fast-track legislative procedures (including the use of "decrees"). We denounce the urgent reforms in Spain that modify institutional functions without debate. We are concerned about the proposed Organic Law on protection against abusive judicial harassment and its retroactive application, which could restrict plural access to justice and judicial independence.

We commit to protecting our democracies from foreign interference, particularly in the digital sphere, by addressing threats such as disinformation and cyberattacks. We demand full implementation of digital regulations (DMA and DSA) to ensure that major tech companies are held accountable for the integrity of public debate and democratic processes.

We support the strict application of the Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation for EU funds and rigorous oversight of their distribution to ensure compliance with Rule of Law standards and to prevent corruption. We stress the need to create a mechanism to protect the final beneficiaries of EU funding whenever Member States fail to comply with their obligations under Article 5(2) of the Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation.

We advocate strengthening the Court of Justice of the EU and call on Member States to comply with CJEU rulings. We support stricter anti-corruption measures, the

implementation of transparency regulations, and the strengthening of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), and Eurojust to enhance cooperation with national agencies in combating financial crimes.

We condemn the persistent deterioration of good governance and the rule of law in Malta, where state institutions remain politically compromised, enabling a culture of impunity that protects those involved in corruption and abuses of power. The assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia was a direct consequence of this breakdown; yet years later, the same structural weaknesses persist.

We call on the European Commission to scrutinise the Maltese government's failure to implement meaningful reforms to strengthen institutional independence and ensure accountability.

We condemn the use of parliament by the Maltese government to attack and intimidate the opposition for standing up for democratic values. The people of Malta and Gozo deserve institutions that serve the public interest, not a system that shields the politically connected. Restoring Malta's democracy requires genuine reforms that reinforce transparency, accountability, and the integrity of public office, not attacks on the democratic opposition, the media, or civil society.

We regret the Amnesty Law in Spain, drafted by its beneficiaries, which compromises the transparency and impartiality of the legislative process. Mechanisms are needed to ensure accountability and prevent impunity.

We defend press freedom as a fundamental pillar of democracy. We condemn and address any government attempt to censorship or governmental manipulation of the media as seen in several Member States, but most especially in Spain, Slovenia and Malta.

We call for reinforced control over foreign investments in media and strategic sectors (including social media) to prevent hostile interference.

In the digital sphere, **we support measures to protect minors without compromising their rights.** We advocate regulating online anonymity to curb disinformation and hate speech.

We support reforms to legal frameworks such as the European Arrest Warrant to improve judicial cooperation.

We call for a directive to protect police officers and emergency workers, improving their working conditions and security (including their recognition as "high-risk" professionals).

We advocate for elevating the Rule of Law dialogue to a European Semester level, with active participation from the Council and the Parliament, to issue recommendations that could lead to infringement proceedings in cases of non-compliance, ensuring full adherence to the Rule of Law in the EU.