



TEXTS ADOPTED

P10_TA(2026)0146

Situation of fundamental rights in the European Union in 2024 and 2025

European Parliament resolution of 29 April 2026 on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union in 2024 and 2025 (2025/2135(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Treaty on European Union (TEU),
- having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (the Charter),
- having regard to the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU),
- having regard to Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence¹,
- having regard to Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA² (Victims' Rights Directive), the Commission proposal of 12 July 2023 for the revision of the Victims' Rights Directive (COM(2023)0424) and the deal reached on the provisional agreement resulting from the interinstitutional negotiations,
- having regard to a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating corruption, replacing Council Framework

¹ OJ L, 2024/1385, 24.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj>.

² OJ L 315, 14.11.2012, p. 57, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2012/29/oj>.

Decision 2003/568/JHA and the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union and amending Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council,

- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2024/1083 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a common framework for media services in the internal market and amending Directive 2010/13/EU (European Media Freedom Act)³,
- having regard to Directive (EU) 2024/1069 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on protecting persons who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded claims or abusive court proceedings ('Strategic lawsuits against public participation')⁴(Anti-SLAPP Directive),
- having regard to Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/758 of 27 April 2022 on protecting journalists and human rights defenders who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings ('Strategic lawsuits against public participation')⁵,
- having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget⁶ (Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation),
- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)⁷,
- having regard to Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law⁸,

³ OJ L, 2024/1083, 17.4.2024, ELI:
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1083/oj>.

⁴ OJ L, 2024/1069, 16.4.2024, ELI:
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1069/oj>.

⁵ OJ L 138, 17.5.2022, p. 30,
ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2022/758/oj>.

⁶ OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 1, ELI:
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/2092/oj>.

⁷ OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1, ELI:
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>.

⁸ OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, p. 55, ELI:
http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_framw/2008/913/oj.

- having regard to the Commission proposal of 2 July 2008 for a Council directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation (COM(2008)0426) (Horizontal Anti-discrimination Directive), as reconfirmed by the Commission in July 2025 following its earlier withdrawal announcement, and noting its pending status in Council,
- having regard to Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin⁹ (Racial Equality Directive),
- having regard to the EU LGBTIQ equality strategy 2020-2025 (COM(2020)0698), the gender equality strategy 2020-2025 (COM(2020)0152), the strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030 (COM(2021)0101), the EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025 (COM(2020)0565), the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation 2020-2030 (COM(2020)0620), and the announcement from the Commission to update and strengthen them,
- having regard to the new LGBTIQ equality strategy 2026-2030,
- having regard to the EU strategy to strengthen the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights (COM(2020)0711) and the Commission's annual reports, in particular the 2024 Annual report on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights – Funding to promote, protect and enforce fundamental rights (COM(2024)0456),
- having regard to the EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021-2030) (COM(2021)0615),
- having regard to the new EU anti-racism strategy 2026-2030,
- having regard to the Commission communications of 24 July 2024 entitled '2024 Rule of Law Report – The rule of law situation in the European Union' (COM(2024)0800) and of 8 July 2025 entitled '2025 Rule of Law report –The rule of law situation in the European Union' (COM(2025)0900), and to the 27 Country Chapters annexed thereto,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 7 March 2025 entitled 'A Roadmap for Women's Rights' (COM(2025)0097), which outlines a long-term vision for achieving gender equality,
- having regard to the UN human rights treaties and instruments on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the

⁹ OJ L 180, 19.7.2000, p. 22, ELI:
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/43/oj>.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the recommendations and reports of the UN Universal Periodic Review, and the case-law of the UN treaty bodies and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (A/HRC/RES/49/5),

- having regard to Recommendation Rec(2006)2 of the Committee of Ministers to member states of the Council of Europe on the European Prison Rules of 11 January 2006,
- having regard to the 34th General Report of the Council of Europe's European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of April 2025,
- having regard to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which was ratified by the EU on 23 December 2010 and to which all Member States are parties, the Optional Protocol to the CRPD, which has been ratified by 22 Member States, as well as the General Comments on the CRPD and the observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
- having regard to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- having regard to the recommendations and reports of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and other bodies of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE),
- having regard to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR),
- having regard to the judgments and case-law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), including case-law concerning pre-trial detention, such as *Letellier v. France* (1991), *Ilijkov v. Bulgaria* (2001) and *Buzadji v. Moldova* (2016), and to the annual reports of the Committee of Ministers on the supervision of their execution,
- having regard to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC),
- having regard to the recommendations, opinions, reports and resolutions of the Council of Europe, in particular of the Venice Commission, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), the Steering Committee on Anti-

discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion, the Parliamentary Assembly, the European Committee of Social Rights and other bodies of the Council of Europe,

- having regard to the statements, recommendations, reports and country visits of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, including his report of 4 September 2025 entitled 'Externalised asylum and migration policies and human rights law',
- having regard to the Council of Europe Safety of Journalists Platform,
- having regard to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention), which was ratified by the European Union on 28 June 2023,
- having regard to the European Social Charter of the Council of Europe,
- having regard to the European Pillar of Social Rights and its action plan,
- having regard to its Decision (EU) 2022/480 of 10 March 2022 on setting up a committee of inquiry to investigate the use of the Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware, and defining the subject of the inquiry, as well as the responsibilities, numerical strength and term of office of the committee¹⁰, the resolutions and recommendations it adopted on the basis of the work of the Committee on the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA), and in particular its recommendation of 15 June 2023 to the Council and the Commission following the investigation of alleged contraventions and maladministration in the application of Union law in relation to the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware¹¹,
- having regard to the reports, opinions and recommendations of the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS),
- having regard to the reports, surveys and opinions of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), in particular its Fundamental Rights Report 2024 and Fundamental Rights Report 2025,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU,

¹⁰ OJ L 98, 25.3.2022, p. 72,
ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/480/oj>.

¹¹ OJ C, C/2024/494, 23.1.2024,
ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/494/oj>.

- having regard to its resolutions on the Commission's rule of law reports,
 - having regard to its resolutions on specific Member States,
 - having regard to its resolution of 8 February 2024 on the implementation of the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025¹²,
 - having regard to its resolution of 13 December 2022 towards equal rights for persons with disabilities¹³,
 - having regard to its resolution of 10 November 2022 on racial justice, non-discrimination and anti-racism in the EU¹⁴,
 - having regard to its resolution of 8 March 2022 on the shrinking space for civil society in Europe¹⁵,
 - having regard to its resolution of 14 December 2021 with recommendations to the Commission on combating gender-based violence: cyberviolence¹⁶,
 - having regard to its resolution of 16 September 2021 with recommendations to the Commission on identifying gender-based violence as a new area of crime listed in Article 83(1) TFEU¹⁷, and to its resolution of 18 January 2024 on extending the list of EU crimes to hate speech and hate crime¹⁸,
 - having regard to its resolution of 7 October 2020 on the establishment of an EU Mechanism on Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights¹⁹,
 - having regard to Rule 55 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (A10-0042/2026),
- A. whereas democratic backsliding is being observed in several Member States, while others are also experiencing challenges affecting democratic standards; whereas the deterioration of the rule of law, the lack of judicial independence, the lack of anti-corruption efforts and of the protection of fundamental rights, the weakening of

¹² OJ C, C/2024/6340, 7.11.2024, ELI:
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/6340/oj>.

¹³ OJ C 177, 17.5.2023, p. 13.

¹⁴ OJ C 161, 5.5.2023, p. 10.

¹⁵ OJ C 347, 9.9.2022, p. 2.

¹⁶ OJ C 251, 30.6.2022, p. 2.

¹⁷ OJ C 117, 11.3.2022, p. 88.

¹⁸ OJ C, C/2024/5733, 17.10.2024, ELI:
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/5733/oj>.

¹⁹ OJ C 395, 29.9.2021, p. 2.

democratic checks and balances, and the instrumentalisation of constitutional norms are some worrying characteristics of this trend;

- B. whereas the Union is founded on the common values, enshrined in Article 2 TEU, of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities; whereas these are values that are embedded in the Charter and in international human rights treaties; whereas the Charter is part of EU primary law; whereas respect for these values is an ongoing obligation for all Member States after EU accession, and a pre-condition for enjoying all Treaty rights and benefits deriving from EU membership;
- C. whereas democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights are mutually reinforcing values which, when undermined, pose a systemic threat to the rights and freedoms of the people living in the EU; whereas the Union's existing rule of law toolbox constitutes an important set of instruments for upholding the Union's values in Article 2 TEU; whereas their full and consistent implementation, accompanied by regular monitoring and follow-up actions, remains necessary to effectively address and prevent systemic challenges to the rule of law across the EU;
- D. whereas the effective implementation of CJEU and ECtHR judgments is an essential component of safeguarding fundamental rights and upholding the rule of law within the Union; whereas recurrent delays or failures to implement such judgments risk undermining confidence in the European human rights system; whereas the pending judgment in case C-769/22, *Commission v Hungary*, could establish Article 2 TEU as an autonomous legal basis, thereby strengthening infringement procedures in this regard;
- E. whereas the limited progress in the ongoing Article 7(1) TEU procedure against Hungary underlines the need to accelerate and strengthen existing processes; whereas achieving concrete and timely results is essential to ensure the protection of fundamental rights and the credibility of the Union's commitment to the values enshrined in Article 2 TEU;
- F. whereas corruption remains a serious concern, since it weakens democratic accountability, poses a serious threat to good governance and erodes citizens' trust in institutions, undermining the EU values enshrined in Article 2 TEU, as consistently highlighted in the Commission's annual rule of law reports;
- G. whereas corruption is often linked to the erosion of democratic institutions and exploited by organised crime to infiltrate politics and the economy, distort democratic processes, and launder illicit money; whereas restoring trust at all levels of society, including in the judiciary and law enforcement, requires sustained anti-

corruption efforts, ethical political leadership, robust independent oversight and a strong commitment to transparency, accountability and the protection of core democratic values;

- H. whereas organised crime poses a serious threat to fundamental rights and the functioning of the rule of law in several Member States; whereas the experience of some Member States has shown the effectiveness of specific preventive mechanisms designed to stop organised crime infiltrating public procurement processes and the management of EU funds by requiring that anti-mafia checks be conducted prior to access being granted to public grants and concessions; whereas the introduction of such preventive mechanisms across the EU would help to protect the integrity of EU funds, uphold the fundamental rights of the communities impacted by organised crime and strengthen citizens' trust in public institutions;
- I. whereas in its annual report, GRECO underlined concerns in several Member States, particularly as regards a lack of transparency in the law-making process, a robust framework to prevent conflicts of interest, a code of conduct for members of government and public officials, access to information on law reforms, and the strengthening of anti-corruption and integrity frameworks within law enforcement agencies; whereas in its study on the examination of persons with top executive functions and law enforcement agencies, GRECO stressed that the absence of integrity checks for top executives in governments and issues related to the recruitment and career of law enforcement personnel, particularly for top management positions, remain problematic;
- J. whereas there is a lack of adequate protection for whistle-blowers across the EU; whereas some Member States have not yet fully or correctly transposed the Whistleblowers Directive²⁰²¹; whereas during 2024 and 2025, the CJEU sanctioned six Member States²² for failing to transpose the Whistleblowers Directive; whereas whistle-blowers play an essential role in detecting and reporting wrongdoing and in strengthening democratic accountability and transparency,

²⁰ Directive (EU) 2019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law (OJ L 305, 26.11.2019, p. 17, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/1937/oj>).

²¹ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/7cc63350-88c9-4c0b-a46e-04fc11e673e7_en?filename=COM_2024_269_1_EN_ACT_part1_v6.pdf.

²² Czechia, Germany, Estonia, Luxembourg, Hungary and Poland; judgments of the CJEU in cases C-147/23, *Commission v Poland*; C-149/23, *Commission v Germany*; C-150/23, *Commission v Luxembourg*; C-152/23, *Commission v Czech Republic*; C-154/23, *Commission v Estonia*; and C-155/23, *Commission v Hungary*.

and their protection should be guaranteed and promoted;

- K. whereas ECtHR case-law emphasises that pre-trial detention must remain an exceptional measure, applied only when strictly necessary and justified on relevant and sufficient grounds; whereas the misuse of pre-trial detention undermines the right to liberty, the presumption of innocence and the overall fairness of justice systems;
- L. whereas media freedom across the EU remains under threat in several Member States, as illustrated by the Commission's latest Rule of Law Report, which issues recommendations to several Member States on addressing concerns relating to media independence, political pressure and the persistence of attacks against press freedom, including SLAPPs;
- M. whereas the Media Pluralism Monitor (MPM) shows a deterioration in working conditions for journalists, including violence, harassment and intimidation, a growing concentration of media ownership and the impact of digital platforms and budget constraints; whereas further safeguards are still needed, including independent regulators, transparency of media ownership, protection from political interference and enhanced access to information and security for journalists;
- N. whereas the Council of Europe's 2025 annual assessment of press freedom in Europe shows that media capture, the lack of independence of public service media and AI-generated disinformation campaigns are growing threats across the EU, posing a direct risk to democracy²³; whereas preserving press freedom and ensuring the public's access to independent, high-quality journalism is one of the key pillars of a democratic society; whereas SLAPPs remain a threat to media freedom; whereas the safeguards provided for in the Anti-SLAPP Directive should be extended to domestic and criminal cases; whereas the European Media Freedom Act entered fully into force on 8 August 2025; whereas in several Member States, journalists and media workers have been subjected to political smear campaigns, public denigration and orchestrated attempts to discredit their work, often accompanied by abusive legal actions and threats, pressure, harassment and violence, creating a climate of fear and self-censorship that undermines the public's right to information;
- O. whereas some journalists and media workers in several countries are suffering from precarious conditions, a lack of resources and an unsafe environment, including increasing harassment and legal challenges, and must also deal with additional challenges including intimidation, legal threats, political interference, limited access to reliable funding and shrinking media pluralism; whereas many face

²³ <https://edoc.coe.int/en/media/12123-europe-press-freedom-report-2024-confronting-political-pressure-disinformation-and-the-erosion-of-media-independence.html#>.

threats, attacks and intimidation in the course of their investigations, and some are forced to live under police protection due to ongoing death threats; whereas according to the MPM 2024 report, the precariousness of journalistic work has had a direct impact on the independence and quality of reporting across Europe; whereas journalists and media professionals must enjoy the rights and assume the duties conferred upon them by their function;

- P. whereas disinformation is often part of a broader range of hybrid threats aimed at undermining or harming democratically established governments, countries or alliances; whereas the spread of misinformation and disinformation, including state-sponsored and coordinated online campaigns, contributes to polarisation, erodes trust in democratic institutions, threatens the integrity of electoral processes and public debate, poses a threat to key electoral principles such as voters' freedom to form their opinion, transparency, equality of opportunity and fairness, and is amplified by the rise of social media and digital platforms, which accelerate the dissemination of false and manipulative content;
- Q. whereas algorithmic manipulation increasingly shapes public opinion by amplifying false or extremist narratives; whereas changes in content moderation policies and enforcement practices on certain major platforms have deepened this trend and raised concerns about the increased spread of harmful content and online manipulation; whereas the Commission has opened investigations into several platforms under the Digital Services Act²⁴ for failing to curb disinformation and protect users;
- R. whereas vulnerable groups are particularly exposed online, facing targeted manipulation, harmful narratives and limited media literacy; whereas young people remain particularly exposed to algorithmic bias and propaganda without adequate digital literacy tools; whereas digital platforms can also play a positive role in access to knowledge, civic participation, community building, innovation and the promotion of fundamental rights; whereas bias in algorithms and the business model of social media platforms, based on micro-targeted advertising, play a role in spreading and amplifying hate speech and inciting discrimination, including racism, misogyny and violence;
- S. whereas upcoming EU initiatives to combat disinformation, including the European Democracy Shield, must be fully consistent with international human rights standards;
- T. whereas new technologies, including AI systems, offer significant

²⁴ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act) (OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj>).

opportunities for innovation, economic growth and improved public services, but may also risk exacerbating discrimination and amplifying existing inequalities and creating new forms of bias; whereas they may raise concerns with regard to privacy and fundamental rights and should be subject to strict safeguards and clear legal frameworks;

- U. whereas children across the EU are facing a growing mental health crisis driven by the unchecked influence of algorithmic techniques, such as addictive and manipulative design, ‘dark patterns’ pushing children into extended screen time, and the promotion of harmful content; whereas this has negative effects on children’s healthy development, mental well-being and safety; whereas current EU legal frameworks governing the online environment do not sufficiently address the protection of children’s mental health online;
- V. whereas the use of spyware, facial recognition and surveillance technologies requires strict safeguards, transparency and democratic oversight in order to prevent abuses, protect fundamental rights and ensure full respect for privacy; whereas new technologies are being used to create predictions, profiles and risk assessments that affect people’s lives and can reproduce social biases; whereas the use of facial recognition technologies can have a chilling effect on the right to peaceful assembly and may have discriminatory effects; whereas biometric mass surveillance practices risk undermining fundamental rights; whereas such practices constitute serious violations of the right to privacy and to freedom of expression; whereas new technologies should be better regulated to protect fundamental rights;
- W. whereas, in the case of journalists, surveillance not only endangers their safety but also destroys the confidentiality of their sources, effectively preventing them from carrying out their work; whereas when there is mounting evidence and an alert from companies about surveillance operations, national authorities should provide information on the scope, authorisation and accountability of these operations, and not leave victims without clarity or effective redress;
- X. whereas there has been widespread use, including by governments, of spyware technologies in several Member States²⁵; whereas the use of spyware constitutes an abusive and undemocratic practice that undermines the rule of law and fundamental rights in our society, and for which there is no effective redress; whereas advances in technology are making spyware infections harder to detect and far more widespread;
- Y. whereas the Parliament’s Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (PEGA) found that

²⁵ For example, Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Hungary, Poland and Spain.

spyware such as Pegasus, Predator and Graphite had been unlawfully used in several Member States against journalists, civil society actors, lawyers, opposition figures and officials; whereas it identified serious breaches of privacy, data protection and freedom of expression, and warned that such practices pose a systemic threat to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights in the Union; whereas the full implementation of the PEGA recommendations is essential to prevent further abuses;

- Z. whereas recent journalistic investigations have revealed that certain EU funds may have been allocated to companies developing or marketing intrusive surveillance technologies, including spyware²⁶; whereas it is essential to ensure that no EU funds contribute to the development, export or deployment of spyware or other surveillance tools that can be used to violate fundamental rights and the rule of law;
- AA. whereas according to the Venice Commission, spyware technologies could be turned into a surveillance weapon that could be used to curtail fundamental rights, censor and criminalise criticism and dissent, and harass, or even suppress, journalists, human rights activists, political opponents and civil society organisations, as shown by the multiple allegations and revelations;
- AB. whereas many instances of disproportionate use of force against demonstrators continue to be reported across the EU, including violence and the use of less lethal weapons to control or disperse crowds²⁷;
- AC. whereas there is evidence that some EU funds, including certain EU Home Affairs funds, have been used in a way that leads to fundamental rights violations, including discrimination; whereas EU funds should be used in a manner that promotes and respects fundamental rights and does not result in any such violations; whereas compliance with the Union values laid down in Article 2 TEU, including respect for the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights, is a fundamental prerequisite for accessing and implementing EU funds, as reflected in the Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation; whereas Member States and the Commission must ensure respect for fundamental rights and compliance with the Charter in accessing and implementing EU funds; whereas increased transparency and accountability and effective oversight in the allocation and use of EU funds and the assessment of the relevant programmes are key to ensuring

²⁶ https://media.business-humanrights.org/media/documents/MEP_letter.pdf.

²⁷ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/07/europe-sweeping-pattern-of-systematic-attacks-and-restrictions-undermine-peaceful-protest/?utm>.

compliance with the horizontal enabling conditions;

- AD. whereas fundamental rights violations at borders, including ill treatment, pushbacks and verbal and physical violence, have been widely reported; whereas such practices have arisen in several Member States in recent years; whereas these include cases of migrants being mistreated by border guards or other officials; whereas these practices violate fundamental rights, EU law and international human rights and refugee law, including the principle of non-refoulement and the prohibition of collective expulsions; whereas Member States and the EU have the responsibility to conduct thorough and effective investigations into violations of fundamental and human rights at borders; whereas fundamental rights violations often go unreported;
- AE. whereas according to the report entitled 'Externalised asylum and migration policies and human rights law' by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, externalisation policies may engage the responsibility of Member States, in particular with regard to the principle of non-refoulement, the right to life, freedom from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, the prohibition of collective expulsion and arbitrary detention, and the right to access effective remedies, as guaranteed by EU and UN treaties, the Charter and the ECHR; whereas the report identifies the external processing of asylum claims, external return procedures and the outsourcing of border controls, some of which have a documented history of serious violations against people on the move, as being among the main areas in which the risks are particularly acute;
- AF. whereas the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights recommends carrying out comprehensive human rights risk assessments before engaging in external cooperation, reviewing the human rights impact of ongoing activities, defining clear and non-negotiable principles that exclude any cooperation likely to put people at risk of fundamental rights violations, ensuring adequate human rights preconditions and safeguards, and strengthening transparency, monitoring and accountability; whereas the division of responsibilities between the Member States and EU bodies or agencies should never result in accountability gaps²⁸;
- AG. whereas according to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the detention of any child solely on account of their or their parents' migration status constitutes a child rights violation and contravenes the principle of ensuring the best interests of the child; whereas the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe resolution entitled 'Artificial Intelligence and Migration' stresses that asylum seekers should have the right to challenge AI-generated evidence, such as

²⁸ <https://rm.coe.int/report-on-externalisation-of-migration-by-michael-o-flaherty-council-o/488028300a>.

flawed interview summaries or biased analyses, that legal aid should be expanded to support such challenges, that reparations must be available where harm results from algorithmic errors, and that technological innovation must not come at the expense of fundamental rights²⁹;

- AH. whereas certain Member States' responses to irregular migration risk undermining fundamental rights and may perpetuate racialised narratives; whereas the EU and the Member States should ensure the protection of the lives of refugees and migrants and take credible steps to deliver accountability for violations;
- AI. whereas attempts to suspend the registration of asylum applications are a matter of serious concern; whereas the human rights of the people concerned must be respected and their protection needs assessed, and those who qualify for international protection must be given access to meaningful protection measures; whereas the new legislative framework under the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum establishes revised rules for asylum procedures, border management and solidarity; whereas its effective application requires full respect for fundamental rights and compliance with EU and international obligations; whereas several Member States continue to face significant operational pressure at their external borders; whereas these challenges require a coordinated European response, including streamlined and effective procedures, in full accordance with the applicable EU and international legal framework; whereas the need to prevent the abuse of the European asylum system by smugglers and the need to combat all forms of transnational organised crime are essential for managing migration effectively;
- AJ. whereas women and girls face increasing and pervasive online violence, hate speech and hate crime, with particular and extreme consequences for their daily lives, their participation in public life, and, as a result, for equal representation; whereas the EU Roadmap for Women's Rights and the declaration of principles for a gender-equal society are welcome initiatives, although they have no enforcement power; whereas urgent efforts are needed to defend and promote gender equality, and thus a Union of Equality;
- AK. whereas the growing global influence has given rise to online communities and male influencers promoting the false narrative that feminism and gender equality harm men, spreading misogynistic content, normalising violence against women and girls, and increasingly intersecting with extremist and radical movements;
- AL. whereas opposition to gender equality has escalated in recent years; whereas the level of gender-based violence, particularly against women and girls, as well as LGBTIQ+ people, including sexual

²⁹ <https://pace.coe.int/en/files/35698/html?utm>.

violence and rape, remains high across the Union, particularly for those experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; whereas gender-based cyberviolence represents a continuation of offline gender-based violence in the online environment; whereas gender-based cyberviolence often leads to self-censorship and can have serious consequences for victims' personal and professional lives; whereas responses from the criminal justice system remain insufficient to address this phenomenon; whereas training police officers in the soft skills needed to listen to, understand and respect all victims of gender-based violence is essential to counter underreporting and re-victimisation; whereas ensuring accessible reporting mechanisms and effective remedies is indispensable to creating a safer environment for all victims of gender-based violence;

- AM. whereas the denial of access to safe and legal abortion exposes women to serious risks and is therefore a form of gender-based violence, as it also denies women's autonomy and freedom of reproductive choice; whereas sexual and reproductive healthcare services are essential healthcare services; whereas more than 20 million women in the EU still lack access to safe and legal abortion and other sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services, which puts women and girls at risk of physical harm and undue economic and mental stress; whereas the denial of such essential healthcare services as SRHR services in some Member States also includes women and girls who are victims of sexual violence, hindering the process of their recovery from the offence in question; whereas the 'My Voice, My choice' European Citizens' Initiative calls on the EU to ensure access to safe and legal abortion for all while respecting the division of competences under the Treaties; whereas the ECtHR has ruled that restrictive abortion laws and the lack of consistent implementation in practice violate women's right to bodily autonomy and integrity;
- AN. whereas discrimination based on sex, gender and other grounds is prohibited under Article 21 of the Charter;
- AO. whereas, as parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Member States are bound by its commitments, including Article 12 on the elimination of discrimination against women in the field of healthcare, with a view to ensuring that men and women have equal access to healthcare services, including those related to family planning;
- AP. whereas denying access to safe and legal abortion in law and practice discriminates against women on the grounds of sex by prohibiting a type of healthcare only required by women; whereas no similar restrictions exist on health services that are needed only by

men³⁰;

- AQ. whereas total annual anti-gender funding in Europe rose from USD 220 million in 2019 to USD 271 million in 2023, which represents a 23 % increase; whereas a significant portion of the funding driving the growth of anti-gender movements across the EU comes from foreign actors;
- AR. whereas media reports show that EU funding has in the past been awarded to organisations that mislead women about their sexual and reproductive health; whereas all EU funding must align with the common values of the Union as enshrined in Article 2 TEU and the Charter, ensuring that financial support reinforces the democratic values of the EU;
- AS. whereas we are witnessing an unprecedented and intensified attack on civic space across the EU, including through legal and financial restrictions, funding suspensions, smear campaigns, intimidation and criminalisation, and on the right to peaceful assembly; whereas the right to peaceful assembly is crucial in a democratic society;
- AT. whereas the UN Human Rights Council underlined that the global trend of backsliding on democracy and the rule of law and the securitisation of agendas have exacerbated and deepened restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly³¹; whereas attacks on civil society organisations (CSOs) and human rights defenders (HRDs) such as those working to protect and promote human and environmental rights, including gender equality, migration, democracy and advocacy, have increased and remain a matter of serious concern; whereas CSOs and HRDs engaged in protecting and promoting fundamental rights play a vital role in safeguarding Union values; whereas their ability to operate freely and independently should be ensured and supported across all Member States;
- AU. whereas individuals in vulnerable situations, such as children, women, racialised and ethnic communities, LGBTIQ+ people, migrants and asylum seekers, people with disabilities and older people are recurrent targets of hate speech and derogatory narratives; whereas in several Member States, anti-LGBTIQ+ narratives are being spread by politicians and media outlets, and anti-LGBTI legislation has been tabled and in some cases even adopted; whereas such situations run contrary to international human rights standards and undermine the right of these groups to be treated as equal citizens;
- AV. whereas access to funding is crucial for civil society to thrive and to

³⁰ [UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Inquiry concerning Poland conducted under article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention: report of the Committee.](#)

³¹ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4086729?ln=en&v=pdf>.

perform its watchdog role; whereas a vibrant civil society and an active civic space are essential pillars of democracy; whereas CSOs also play a crucial role, particularly for marginalised communities, including in the provision of social services; whereas in its political guidelines, the Commission committed to stepping up its engagement with CSOs that have expertise and an important role to play in defending specific societal issues and upholding fundamental rights;

- AW. whereas civil society organisations are close partners of the Member States in their efforts to protect and promote fundamental rights; whereas humanitarian assistance continues to be arbitrarily criminalised; whereas restrictions and obstacles affecting search and rescue activities (by Member States) are contributing to a continuing loss of lives; whereas the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights has called on EU Member States to end their repression of HRDs assisting refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, and to refrain from using derogatory, inflammatory or stigmatising rhetoric about them and their role³²;
- AX. whereas the upcoming EU civil society strategy should aim at ensuring that EU policies are shaped and implemented in line with the values enshrined in Article 2 TEU and the Charter; whereas the strategy should include ambitious initiatives and benchmarks to measure progress; whereas the Commission has announced its intention to create a civil society platform which can centralise and harmonise the current engagement of civil society actors in EU policymaking; whereas the platform should be co-designed and implemented with organised civil society;
- AY. whereas appropriate, predictable and sustainable long-term EU funding for civil society should continue to be ensured in the next multiannual financial framework (MFF), with due regard for financial transparency, sound management and clear contractual obligations, as should be the case for all funds and programmes; whereas funding for human rights organisations remains limited, fragmented and inconsistent; whereas cuts to this funding, including the freeze on US Agency for International Development (USAID) funds, are having a significant impact on civil society across the EU, as they are seriously weakening civil society's ability to defend victims of discrimination, promote equality, ensure accountability and safeguard the rule of law and fundamental rights;
- AZ. whereas in certain cases, EU funds have supported initiatives that contribute to segregation or discriminatory practices, thereby undermining equality objectives; whereas the UN Human Rights Council has called for ensuring that funding for civil society actors is

³² <https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-protecting-the-defenders-ending-repression-of-human-rig/1680ae9b1c>.

in compliance with Member States' international human rights obligations and commitments and not misused to hinder the work or endanger the safety of civil society actors³³;

- BA. whereas the intensifying attempts in the EU to limit or roll back fundamental rights of women and LGBTIQ+ people are of grave concern; whereas these attempts focus mostly on the area of reproductive healthcare and rights, gender identity and legal gender recognition or access to comprehensive sexuality education; whereas attacks on these areas are not only harmful to the most vulnerable members of society but also incompatible with the values of the EU and the international human rights framework, and thus constitute violations of EU law;
- BB. whereas at present, there are gaps in EU anti-discrimination legislation, with some grounds of discrimination only covered in the area of employment and occupation; whereas this has led to a patchwork of protection and the creation of an artificial 'hierarchy of grounds'; whereas the Treaties and the Charter give the EU a mandate and responsibility for combating discrimination in relation to all protected grounds;
- BC. whereas all Member States are bound to act in the best interests of the child, including by safeguarding the fundamental right of every child to family life and prohibiting the discrimination of children on the basis of their parents' marital status or sexual orientation, or the way the child was conceived; whereas around 2 million children may still face a situation in which their parents are not recognised as such in another Member State; whereas in 2022, the Commission proposed a Council regulation on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition of decisions and acceptance of authentic instruments in matters of parenthood and on the creation of a European Certificate of Parenthood (COM(2022)0695) (Parenthood Regulation), which is still pending final decision in the Council;
- BD. whereas concerns have been raised regarding the fact that discrimination and racism remain widespread across the EU, including in laws and policies, as well as in public institutions such as law enforcement and the justice system; whereas discriminatory law enforcement practices remain a serious concern; whereas racialised groups are disproportionately targeted by stop-and-search procedures, excessive use of force and harassment; whereas oversight and accountability mechanisms remain weak and are hindered by a lack of independent investigations; whereas, at the same time, violence against public officials must be effectively addressed;
- BE. whereas despite formal recognition of structural racism at EU level,

³³ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4086729?ln=en&v=pdf>.

it continues to manifest in key areas of life in the Member States; whereas segregation, including in education, and repeated cases of hate speech and hate crime disproportionately affect racialised communities and other marginalised groups, such as LGBTIQ+ persons; whereas these are structural barriers and fundamental rights violations that hinder equal access to rights, opportunities and justice across the Union; whereas this negatively impacts public trust in institutions and social cohesion;

- BF. whereas the Holocaust and historical injustices, including colonialism and slavery, continue to shape structural racism in Europe today; whereas acknowledgement, remembrance and education about those are essential to combating racism and promoting equality and fundamental rights;
- BG. whereas intersectional discrimination remains largely unaddressed in policy and practice; whereas the compounded impact of racism and gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, socio-economic status, migration background and other grounds continues to be overlooked, leaving many victims without adequate protection, support or access to effective remedies;
- BH. whereas recent surveys conducted by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) among Black people, Jews, Muslims and LGBTIQ+ people in the EU reveal that these groups continue to experience widespread instances of hatred and discrimination in the EU, reflecting systemic racial discrimination; whereas fears, misconceptions and ‘othering’ fuel discrimination and intolerance³⁴; whereas ECRI has raised concerns about xenophobic, homophobic and transphobic speech, including from politicians and public officials; whereas every person in the EU has the same right to become a full and active member of society and be treated equally;
- BI. whereas recent legislative and institutional reforms in some Member States raise serious questions regarding compliance with the fundamental right to a fair trial and to an independent and impartial tribunal, as guaranteed by Article 47 of the Charter; whereas judicial independence is an indispensable component of the rule of law and a prerequisite for the effective protection of all other fundamental rights; whereas the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) has emphasised that judicial councils must remain independent from parliamentary and executive influence;
- BJ. whereas the Hungarian law on the protection of local identity, which entered into force on 1 July 2025, grants municipal authorities the power to restrict residence based on arbitrary criteria such as

³⁴ [EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Rights Report 2025.](#)

education level, language proficiency and proof of employment; whereas such measures risk institutionalising racial segregation in housing and disproportionately affecting the Roma community, raising serious concerns about compliance with EU law and fundamental rights;

- BK. whereas the Roma community continues to face systemic discrimination, segregation, social exclusion and police violence³⁵; whereas FRA reports reveal significant shortcomings in the implementation of the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation, and highlight the low likelihood of achieving its 2030 targets³⁶; whereas forced evictions against Roma people have recently resulted in the displacement of hundreds of individuals, including children, elderly people and people with disabilities; whereas the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights has called for the implementation of ECtHR judgments in relation to the rights of Roma people³⁷ ;
- BL. whereas persons with disabilities living in the EU continue to face harassment and multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination in all areas of life, including the denial of reasonable accommodation, socio-economic disadvantages, social isolation, gender-based violence such as forced sterilisation, lack of access to community services, low-quality housing, institutionalisation, inadequate healthcare and denial of the opportunity to contribute to and engage actively in society;
- BM. whereas the EU and the Member States that have not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to the UNCRPD should do so without delay;
- BN. whereas ECRI has called on governments to actively promote the inclusion of migrants and to combat any discrimination against them³⁸; whereas racism and racial discrimination persist, including in the area of migration and asylum; whereas racialised migrants are disproportionately exposed to rights violations at the Union's borders and within asylum and reception systems; whereas there is a lack of explicit anti-racism safeguards;
- BO. whereas the situation of intersex persons in the EU remains largely unknown to the public in the EU; whereas in April 2024, several member states of the Council of Europe sponsored the first UN

³⁵ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/the-unheard-12-million>.

³⁶ EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, Rights of Roma and Travellers in 13 European countries – Perspectives from the Roma Survey 2024.

³⁷ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/greece-should-ensure-that-roma-have-access-to-adequate-housing-and-are-not-subject-to-discriminatory-treatment-or-violence-by-law-enforcement-authorities>.

³⁸ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-commission-against-racism-and-intolerance/-/ecri-s-recommendations-on-integration-and-inclusion-of-migrants-new-factsheet>.

Human Rights Council Resolution on combating discrimination, violence and harmful practices against intersex people;

- BP. whereas the Racial Equality Directive has been insufficiently applied by most Member States; whereas Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA on racism and xenophobia has not been fully or correctly transposed by some Member States; whereas stronger efforts are needed to combat structural racism, including the impact of violent right-wing extremist narratives in social debate³⁹, and to ensure that Member States comply with EU anti-discrimination legislation;
- BQ. whereas access to justice for victims of racist hate crimes and other forms of hate crime and discrimination remains severely limited in several Member States due to inadequate support services, barriers to recognising racist and hate motivation, and weak enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation; whereas, as a consequence, racialised communities and other marginalised groups continue to face rights violations without access to effective remedies;
- BR. whereas several Member States have consistently ignored judgments of the ECtHR;
- BS. whereas Article 151 TFEU refers to fundamental social rights such as those set out in the European Social Charter; whereas socio-economic inequalities, including poverty and social exclusion, are increasing across the EU and this is a matter of great concern; whereas they remain deeply racialised, with persistent and structural disparities in access to education, healthcare, housing, employment and wealth accumulation, which continue to exclude racialised groups from equal participation in society and perpetuate intergenerational cycles of poverty and marginalisation; whereas housing inequality and the number of homeless people have both increased at an alarming rate in several Member States⁴⁰;
- BT. whereas the Commission should look into what steps are needed for accession by the EU to the European Social Charter;
- BU. whereas there have been proposals for the Council of Europe and its member states to adopt a protocol to the ECHR, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment;
- BV. whereas in its *KlimaSeniorinnen v. Switzerland* judgment, the ECtHR recognised that the failure of states to take adequate measures against climate change may constitute a violation of the right to respect for private and family life under Article 8 of the ECHR; whereas the ruling underlines the urgent need to provide an

³⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52024DC0419>.

⁴⁰ <https://pace.coe.int/en/files/3%204542/html>.

enforceable right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment within the framework of the ECHR, thereby ensuring consistency, foreseeability and protection for the public;

BW. whereas some Member States published a letter regarding the interpretation of fundamental rights within the framework of the ECHR;

BX. whereas European human rights standards are the rights, principles, and obligations established in the EU Treaties, conventions and EU law, which reflect a shared understanding of minimum levels of protection; whereas international human rights standards are the minimum norms for the protection of human rights that have been formally endorsed by the international community through universal treaties, customary international law and universally accepted principles; whereas such standards bind or guide states in their treatment of individuals;

Fundamental rights at stake

1. Urges the Commission and the Member States to respect and promote EU values as enshrined in Article 2 TEU; further urges the Commission to comply with its obligations, such as to systematically conduct thorough fundamental rights impact assessments when preparing and presenting a legislative proposal, to launch infringement procedures where needed and to use fast-track procedures only when strictly necessary;
2. Urges the Commission to strengthen the annual reports on the application of the Charter by providing an EU-wide overview of its application across the EU, including an assessment of compliance with the Charter provisions, recommendations to Member States, and a clearer follow-up on identified fundamental rights challenges;
3. Expresses concern that divergent national interpretations lead to inadequate application of certain Charter provisions, as highlighted by the FRA Fundamental Rights Report 2025; calls on the Commission to take effective measures to ensure the full and uniform application of the Charter across the EU and on the Member States who have not yet done so to designate national focal points to ensure that national legislation, policies and EU-funded projects are fully Charter-compliant; believes that the EU institutions should be more vocal in denouncing breaches of fundamental rights and in calling on the Member States to take the necessary measures to address them; calls for improved awareness-raising campaigns at EU and national level, including in cooperation with FRA, aimed at enabling individuals to fully understand and exercise their rights;
4. Commends the role of FRA in monitoring the situation of fundamental rights in the EU, in supporting policy-makers by providing data, analysis and advice, and in making sure that

fundamental rights are respected and promoted in existing and future EU legislation and policy; stresses the need to provide FRA with enhanced human and financial resources to ensure that it can fully and efficiently perform the duties entrusted to it;

5. Invites the Commission to continue enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of existing instruments, including monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; acknowledges the crucial role of the horizontal enabling conditions in the Common Provisions Regulation⁴¹ in ensuring the systematic application of the Charter and the alignment of Union programmes both with the Charter and with the EU values enshrined in Article 2 TEU; underlines the need to ensuring enhanced transparency and stakeholder participation;

Democracy under stress

6. Reiterates that democratic backsliding, attacks on judicial independence and threats to civic space are not isolated incidents but part of a systemic erosion of the rule of law in several Member States, as confirmed by the FRA Fundamental Rights Report 2025 and the Commission's Rule of Law Report 2025; stresses that these trends undermine mutual trust between Member States and the proper functioning of the internal market;
7. Notes with concern the increasing political interference in the judiciary, the harassment of judges and prosecutors, and the use of disciplinary proceedings to silence independent judicial voices, as documented by FRA and the Council of Europe; recalls that partial or symbolic reforms in several Member States, such as Hungary, cannot replace genuine compliance with judicial independence, effective anti-corruption guarantees and respect for civil society; underlines that these elements are intrinsically linked to the protection of fundamental rights, including the right to an effective remedy, equality before the law and access to justice, as enshrined in Articles 20 and 47 of the Charter;
8. Reiterates its call on the Commission and the Council to immediately enter into negotiation with Parliament on an EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights in the form of an interinstitutional agreement encompassing all Union values enshrined in Article 2 TEU, including a permanent policy cycle

⁴¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1060/oj>).

among the EU institutions integrating all existing tools, including the Article 7 TEU procedure, the Rule of Law Framework and Report, the Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation, the Common Provisions Regulation and the infringement procedures, into a single, enforceable framework;

9. Calls on the Commission to systematically use and rigorously enforce the Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation to ensure that EU funds do not contribute to violations of the values enshrined in Article 2 TEU;
10. Calls on the EU institutions to engage in dialogue with the Council of Europe and national governments to ensure that the protection of fundamental human rights remains effective; recalls that any limitation on the exercise of the rights and freedoms recognised by the Charter must be provided for by law and respect the essence of those rights and freedoms;
11. Urges the Member States, in particular those with a significant number of unimplemented ECtHR judgments, to accelerate their implementation and to establish transparent national monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance; calls on the Commission and the Council to strengthen cooperation with the Council of Europe in promoting the effective execution of these judgments;
12. Expresses grave concern over the continued systemic breaches of the values enshrined in Article 2 TEU by Hungary, which has remained under the Article 7(1) TEU procedure since 2018 with no tangible progress; stresses that such a continued erosion of democratic standards and fundamental rights threatens the credibility of the Union as a community of values; deplores the deliberate weakening of judicial independence, media pluralism and academic freedom, the misuse of emergency powers, and the targeting of civil society and LGBTIQ+ persons; notes that the Commission's 2025 Rule of Law Report and the FRA Fundamental Rights Report 2025 confirm a further deterioration in checks and balances, and widespread corruption and non-compliance with CJEU and ECtHR judgments; urges the Commission and the Member States to initiate the procedure under Article 7(2) TEU; calls on the Council to adopt country-specific recommendations with clear deadlines and measurable benchmarks;
13. Recalls that the use of discretionary power should be controlled by judicial or other independent reviews; calls on the Member States to establish mechanisms to prevent, correct and sanction abuse of discretionary powers, and to provide sound reasons for their decisions, in particular when they affect the rights of individuals;
14. Recalls that according to the UN standards for law enforcement,

non-violent means are to be attempted first⁴² by law enforcement authorities; calls, in this regard, on the Member States to comply with the UN standards for law enforcement; recalls that law enforcement authorities are fully accountable for the fulfilment of their duties; underlines the importance of ensuring that investigations into any alleged cases of excessive use of force and discriminatory treatment by law enforcement authorities are transparent, independent and effective; calls on the Commission to introduce EU-wide guidelines for the selection, testing and trialling of the weapons used by law enforcement authorities, based on UN standards, recommendations and guiding principles; calls on the Member States to collect data on all uses of force, and on their causes and consequences;

15. Is deeply concerned by the increasing level of corruption observed in certain Member States and the emergence of corruption cases involving high-level officials and politicians; urges the Member States to combat corruption and to fully comply with GRECO's recommendations, including those in its fifth evaluation round on persons with top executive functions and law enforcement agencies, and with recommendations issued by other relevant international and European bodies, including the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), as well as with those stemming from the UN and Council of Europe anti-corruption conventions;
16. Welcomes the Directive on Combating Corruption and calls for ensuring an effective, timely and ambitious implementation to strengthen the fight against corruption;
17. Calls on the Member States to ensure transparency in public spending and political financing, and to protect whistle-blowers who expose corruption in public institutions and the private sector;
18. Calls on the Commission to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the Whistleblowers Directive and to take the necessary steps to ensure its full and correct transposition;
19. Expresses serious concerns regarding the deterioration in media freedom and the safety of journalists and media actors in several Member States, in particular those ranked lowest in the 2025 World Press Freedom Index, and the increasing pressure and attacks on, and political interference in, editorial independence and journalistic integrity;
20. Recalls that media freedom and pluralism, including high-quality, sustainably and transparently financed and independent news media, both traditional and digital, independent and investigative

journalists, fact-checkers and researchers, and strong independent public service media are a cornerstone of a democratic society, a safeguard against the abuse of power and an antidote to disinformation;

21. Condemns the oppressive strategies employed by some Member States' governments, such as the use of SLAPPs and smear campaigns, the growing influence of government-aligned oligarchs, the increasing concentration of media ownership that can have a significant impact on media pluralism and editorial independence across the EU, and state control over public media, civil society and academic institutions, all of which are contributing to the growing deterioration of media and academic freedom;
22. Deplores the growing practice by high-level officials in some Member States of limiting communication with key media outlets; emphasises that such actions curtail media freedom and transparency and can contribute to the spread of disinformation in the public space; underlines that public officials have a special responsibility in their communication with the public; stresses that the spreading of disinformation or public attacks on journalists by public officials is an increasing problem that fosters a permissive environment for propaganda, polarisation, hate speech and even hate crimes; urges all public figures to recognise and uphold their responsibility in public communication, ensuring that their discourse remains respectful, factual and professional;
23. Deplores the systemic failures in investigating and prosecuting crimes against journalists in several Member States; underscores the urgent need for stronger safeguards and robust legal frameworks to protect journalists; underlines that a failure to investigate and prosecute crimes exposed by journalists places them at a heightened risk of threats and violence; urges national authorities to end impunity through thorough and transparent investigations and prosecutions; pays tribute to Ján Kuciak, Daphne Caruana Galizia and Giorgos Karaivaz, and acknowledges their essential work as investigative journalists; calls on the competent authorities to ensure that justice is finally served;
24. Strongly condemns all forms of violence, threats, intimidation and surveillance against journalists, as well as the harassment and criminalisation of journalists for their work; calls for decriminalising defamation; highlights the fact that women journalists are particularly targeted and that this is a matter of concern; stresses that such a hostile environment for journalistic work might lead to self-censorship or deter individuals from choosing journalistic careers;
25. Calls on the Commission, the Member States and candidate and potential candidate countries to ensure the immediate and effective

safety and protection of journalists and media professionals, including those fighting corruption at the highest levels of government;

26. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote free, independent and pluralistic media; stresses the need to ensure robust legal protections for public service media, guaranteeing their editorial independence and stable funding and shielding them from political influence and interference, in order to enable them to serve the public interest effectively and impartially; calls on the Commission to closely monitor such developments across the EU and to address the ongoing challenges;
27. Recalls several cases in which journalists with EU citizenship have been detained on spurious charges while carrying out their professional duties in non-EU countries, including candidate countries; urges the Commission and the Member States, in line with Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/758, to increase their efforts to assist with the release and safe return of these arbitrarily detained journalists; calls on the Commission to pay particular attention to cases of unjustified detention of journalists in candidate countries, including Türkiye, and to the legal proceedings against Swedish journalist Joakim Medin;
28. Urges the Commission to ensure the full and correct implementation of the European Media Freedom Act; further urges the Commission and the Member States to guarantee the swift and proper implementation of the Anti-SLAPP Directive and to take effective measures to put an end to all SLAPP cases across the EU;
29. Calls on the Member States to follow the recommendation from the Council of Europe Safety of Journalists Platform to strengthen the protections for journalists in exile, including safeguards against the misuse of Interpol red notices;
30. Recalls that 16 EU Member States have recently committed to strengthening support for the integrity of information and independent media; acknowledges that several Member States have adopted dedicated action plans and taken steps to set up dedicated support structures promoting the safety of journalists;

Intersection of fundamental rights, democracy and technology

31. Highlights the growing trend of election manipulation in the EU by both domestic and foreign actors; calls on the Commission to carry out regular specific analyses of the tools available to, and used by, Member States to combat disinformation and foreign interference linked to electoral processes, recognising that such threats undermine fundamental rights, including the right to receive and impart information, democratic participation, and free and fair elections;

32. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that all measures taken to protect the EU against foreign interference and information manipulation include strong and resolute safeguards for fundamental rights, including freedom of expression; takes note of the Commission's newly proposed 'Democracy Shield' mechanism and expresses its intention to engage constructively in its further development;
33. Calls on the Commission to assess whether EU restrictive measures imposed on several academics, scientists and analysts comply with the proportionality and necessity requirements under EU law and with Article 11 of the Charter, and whether they are designed to minimise their impact on economic, social, and cultural rights; recalls that the right to be heard must be guaranteed⁴³;
34. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to guarantee the effective implementation and enforcement of the DSA, the Artificial Intelligence Act⁴⁴ and the Transparency and Targeting of Political Advertising Regulation⁴⁵, including by ensuring adequate human and technical resources to safeguard the integrity of future elections in the EU;
35. Recognises the important role of digital technologies in fostering access to information and democratic participation; stresses that the business model of social media platforms based on microtargeting can stimulate addictive behaviour and lead to the amplification of divisive content, with serious repercussions for fundamental rights, such as the rights of the child, the right to the protection of personal data, equality and non-discrimination; underlines that social media platforms are often used as a vehicle for foreign interference and hybrid attacks due to their amplifying effects on social cohesion and democratic processes; underlines the need to address these challenges as part of the EU's broader resilience ecosystem;
36. Calls on the Commission to reinforce the risk assessment and mitigation obligations for very large online platforms and very large online search engines, and to ensure effective follow-up; urges the

⁴³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/01/european-union-restrictive-measures-against-academics-negatively-impact>.

⁴⁴ Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act) (OJ L, 2024/1689, 12.7.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj>).

⁴⁵ Regulation (EU) 2024/900 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2024 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising (OJ L, 2024/900, 20.3.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/900/oj>).

Commission to remain firm in the face of attempts to undermine the DSA and to pursue ongoing investigations into large online platforms;

37. Highlights the challenges posed by generative AI chatbots, including the potential for these systems to cause cognitive harm through their interactions; considers that new technologies, including AI systems, must be guided by the principles of transparency, explainability, fairness and accountability and by appropriate safeguards in algorithmic systems, such as carrying out independent impact assessments to prevent them from exacerbating discrimination and existing inequalities; shares the opinion of the UN Secretary-General that algorithms should not exclusively determine the information people access, and that technology companies should ensure that their algorithms and content recommendation systems are designed and used in ways that do not undermine fundamental rights and democratic values;
38. Recalls that, according to Article 27 of the DSA, providers of online platforms must set out in their terms and conditions the main parameters used in their recommendation systems, any options available for users to modify or influence those parameters and an explanation of why certain content is suggested to the user; urges online intermediaries to end practices that deliberately exploit polarisation for profit;
39. Highlights the negative effects that online platforms can have on fundamental rights and the mental health of children; stresses the need to protect children online, and calls on the Commission to closely monitor whether existing legal frameworks can effectively address these concerns, with a specific focus on ensuring a strong children's rights and fundamental rights perspective in such assessments; underlines that the upcoming Digital Fairness Act must effectively protect children online and safeguard their rights; further calls on the Commission to ensure a high level of privacy, safety and security for children, and to better protect them from harmful and illegal content and from advertisements based on profiling;
40. Welcomes the announcement of the first EU-wide inquiry into the effects of social media on well-being, and calls on the Commission to speed up the process;
41. Calls for stronger investment in media and digital literacy as the most effective safeguard against manipulation; urges the Member States to include media and digital literacy, civic education, European history, respect for fundamental rights, critical thinking and the promotion of public participation in school and university curricula, recognising them as critical elements for meaningful participation in democratic life and the effective exercise of fundamental rights, including freedom of expression and the right to

receive information; highlights the need to work in parallel on raising awareness about how to tackle disinformation and promoting digital literacy; calls for a concerted EU media and digital literacy strategy with projects that create tangible results with significant scale across the EU;

42. Deplores the growing practice of government surveillance of independent media outlets and journalists by intelligence services; strongly condemns attempts by certain governments to portray independent media and journalists as drivers of radicalisation or to restrict their work by labelling them as threats to society or national security;
43. Reiterates that surveillance must be conducted in accordance with the law, serve a legitimate aim and be necessary and proportionate given the threat it poses to fundamental rights and democracy; regrets that the legal framework in some Member States does not provide precise, effective and comprehensive safeguards on the authorisation and execution of surveillance measures and on the potential redress mechanisms against such measures; underlines that all surveillance measures must be subject to an appropriate judicial review and effective oversight; is concerned about new cases of unjustified invocation of 'national security' to justify the deployment and use of spyware and to ensure absolute secrecy and lack of accountability; welcomes the Commission's statement, in line with the CJEU's jurisprudence, that a mere reference to national security cannot be interpreted as being an unlimited exemption from EU law and should require a clear justification; calls on the Commission to follow up on that statement in cases where there are indications of abuse; recalls that in a democratic and transparent society that abides by the rule of law, surveillance in the name of national security should be the exception rather than the rule;
44. Reiterates its call on the Member States⁴⁶ to follow all the recommendations of PEGA and the Venice Commission, which provide important guidance on ensuring compliance with fundamental rights, the rule of law and democratic oversight; stresses the need for full accountability and transparency in all cases of intrusive surveillance; urges the Commission to respond to the growing threats posed by spyware technologies; calls for effective judicial oversight to ensure that surveillance is never used against journalists, activists or political opponents;
45. Urges the EU's accession to the ECHR to be finalised; recalls that the CJEU, in its case Opinion 2/13, identified a number of legal obstacles to accession, and underlines the importance of addressing these obstacles in order to enable the EU's timely and successful accession; stresses that this step is essential to align the EU's legal

⁴⁶ In particular on Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Hungary, Poland and Spain.

framework with the highest standards of human rights protection;

Fundamental rights at borders and migration policy

46. Recalls that the new legislative framework under the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum establishes revised rules for asylum procedures, border management and solidarity; underlines that its effective implementation requires full respect for fundamental rights; highlights that respect for fundamental rights must continue to be closely monitored;
47. Calls on the EU and the Member States, in particular their competent authorities, to comply with international human rights obligations and commitments in their migration policies, promote prompt investigations, closely monitor the impact of these policies on fundamental rights, both within existing legal frameworks and in the development of future legislation, and refrain from adopting migration policies that exacerbate inequality and exclusion; encourages the EU and the Member States to take into account the situation and specific needs of vulnerable groups; calls for the establishment of a mechanism to monitor compliance with these obligations;
48. Calls on the Member States to implement the Migration and Asylum Pact in full and in a timely manner; highlights the need to meet the implementation deadline; notes with concern the lack of preparedness by some Member States to meet the implementation deadline, including with regard to provisions related to fundamental rights, and encourages continued support and cooperation to ensure its full implementation; highlights that international law recognises that seeking asylum is a lawful act and that, accordingly, an asylum seeker cannot be arbitrarily detained solely on the grounds of being an asylum seeker; recalls that the detention of asylum seekers must be a measure of last resort if less coercive alternative measures cannot be applied effectively; stresses that any detention of asylum seekers must be exceptional, necessary and proportionate, and may only be ordered on the basis of an individual assessment for the specific reasons provided under EU law;
49. Strongly condemns fundamental rights violations at borders, ill-treatment and the use of violence by national authorities such as law enforcement and border guards; notes that such practices are often unreported and not investigated; notes, furthermore, that several Member States continue to face significant operational pressure at their external borders; underlines that these challenges require a coordinated European response, including streamlined and effective procedures, in full accordance with the applicable EU and international legal framework;
50. Reiterates the obligation under the International Law of the Sea to

assist persons in distress, and urgently calls on the Commission and the Member States to establish permanent and coordinated search and rescue operations with swift disembarkations; further calls on the Member States to take every possible action to save the lives of people at risk at sea; calls, furthermore, for ensuring that search and rescue (SAR) operations can operate in accordance with EU and international law and that these operations are coordinated, where possible, between relevant actors, including Member State authorities, relevant EU agencies and relevant non-governmental actors;

51. Recalls that Article 46 of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Regulation⁴⁷ can be activated in cases of potential violations of fundamental rights; calls on the agency to proactively make full use of all the tools at its disposal, in particular the possibility of activating Article 46 in cases of potential fundamental rights violations;
52. Urges the Member States to take due account of the recommendations made by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights in his report entitled 'Protecting the Defenders: Ending repression of human rights defenders assisting refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Europe'⁴⁸; stresses the importance of maintaining public discourse grounded in respect for human dignity, while underlining the importance of a fact-based and responsible public debate on migration and asylum; strongly condemns recurrent anti-refugee and anti-migrant rhetoric;

Gender-based violence, women's rights and the rights of LGBTIQ+ people

53. Strongly condemns the backsliding on women's and LGBTIQ+ rights in several Member States; calls on the Commission and the Member States to protect and promote gender equality and fundamental rights, including by addressing disinformation and organised campaigns that seek to limit these rights, and to take the necessary measures to promote gender representation;
54. Urges the Commission and the Member States to take the necessary measures to fight anti-gender and anti-rights movements, including anti-LGBTIQ+ movements, and to conduct in-depth research, monitoring and analysis of the impact of these movements to gain a clearer understanding of their operations, coordination and financing

⁴⁷ Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/1624 (OJ L 295, 14.11.2019, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1896/oj>).

⁴⁸ <https://rm.coe.int/recommendation-protecting-the-defenders-ending-repression-of-human-rig/1680ae9b1c>.

strategies; stresses that such understanding is crucial to safeguard an inclusive and tolerant Europe grounded in the values enshrined in Article 2 TEU;

55. Urges the Commission to ensure that in the new MFF, no EU funding will be made available to anti-gender and anti-rights groups that aim to roll back progress in women's rights and the rights of LGBTIQ+ people, nor to any group or project that does not respect EU values and the fundamental rights outlined in the Charter; further urges the Commission to closely monitor the implementation in Member States of funds under shared management aimed at promoting gender equality and supporting civil society, including women non-governmental organisations, in order to ensure that calls for proposals to obtain such funds are not being deliberately paused or withheld;
56. Expresses serious concerns about the intensifying attacks on the LGBTIQ+ community and their fundamental rights in some Member States; emphasises that these attacks violate the right to non-discrimination, the right to equality before the law and the right to equal protection before the law without discrimination; calls for the EU and the Member States to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people and to address disparities in protection resulting from the inconsistent implementation of protection measures across Member States; welcomes the new LGBTIQ+ equality strategy 2026-2030, and calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure its swift implementation; calls on the Member States to renew or adopt new national LGBTIQ+ action plans or strategies to complement EU initiatives with effective national measures;
57. Underlines that the absence of legal gender recognition procedures constitutes a violation of fundamental rights; condemns conversion practices, such as practices aimed at changing, repressing or suppressing a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression, as violations of fundamental rights, and urges the Commission to tackle them through concrete actions; further urges, in this regard, the Commission to present a proposal for a legal act establishing an EU ban on conversion practices in all Member States as a follow-up action to the 'Ban on conversion practices in the European Union' European Citizens' Initiative;
58. Is deeply concerned about the discriminatory measures introduced in some Member States under the pretext of fighting 'LGBTIQ+ propaganda', which are contributing to an alarming increase in hate crimes and hate speech targeting LGBTIQ+ individuals; highlights the negative impact of such measures on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly; emphasises that these actions encourage discrimination and contravene EU law; stresses the importance of the right to self-determination of LGBTIQ+ persons and the relevant

case-law in this regard;

59. Calls on all Member States to protect LGBTIQ+ rights in compliance with EU law, the Charter, and case-law of the CJEU and the ECtHR; urges the Commission to address the persistent failure to implement CJEU judgments relating to the fundamental rights of LGBTIQ+ people, using all the mechanisms at its disposal;
60. Recalls that legal barriers to recognising same-sex partnerships, parenthood and marriages across borders persist in several Member States; warns that such practices hinder the free movement of LGBTIQ+ families within the EU, violate the principle of non-discrimination before the law and highlight the lack of uniform protection for LGBTIQ+ individuals across Member States; calls on the Member States who have not yet done so to introduce legal recognition of same-sex partnerships; calls on the Commission to recast Directive 2004/38/EC⁴⁹ in order to include explicit cross-border recognition of private and family life rights; stresses that all children are equal before the law and that Member States must act in the best interests of the child;
61. Recalls Parliament's mandate on the Parenthood Regulation, which supports the recognition of parenthood across the EU irrespective of the type of family; calls on the Member States to swiftly adopt the Parenthood Regulation to provide legal certainty for parents and children across the EU and to ensure that parenthood established in one EU Member State is automatically recognised across the EU; urges the Commission to ensure full respect for the free movement of persons, the rights of the child, the right of residence and family reunification within the EU, enabling all citizens to enjoy equal rights and exercise them in full;
62. Welcomes the EU Roadmap for Women's Rights and the Declaration of principles for a gender-equal society annexed thereto; regrets, however, the lack of strong financial commitments; is concerned about the insufficient level of ambition to protect and promote the Union of Equality;
63. Underlines that gender-based violence, both online and offline, is a major and pervasive offence, as well as a violation of fundamental rights and the principle of equality before the law; calls on the Commission and the Member States to take action against all forms

⁴⁹ Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States amending Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 and repealing Directives 64/221/EEC, 68/360/EEC, 72/194/EEC, 73/148/EEC, 75/34/EEC, 75/35/EEC, 90/364/EEC, 90/365/EEC and 93/96/EEC (OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 77, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2004/38/oj>).

of gender-based violence, both online and offline;

64. Is concerned that forms and patterns of gender-based cyberviolence continue to evolve; underlines that the non-consensual sharing of intimate material and hate speech are some of the most widespread forms of cyberviolence; highlights the need to develop measures to address and counter the rise of misogynistic values concerning gender equality and women's rights; stresses the need for a deeper understanding of the incel phenomenon and ideology, and emphasises the importance of prevention through more active policies to counter such phenomena and their narratives;
65. Urges the Commission and the Member States to address the growing potential harm and chilling effect that new technologies, including artificial intelligence, can have on victims, and to put in place preventive and supportive measures; further urges the Commission to take action against the pervasive online violence targeting women, which has become an increasing barrier to women's participation in public life and to equal representation; urges, in this regard, the Commission and the Member States to fully and properly implement relevant legislation, in particular the Directive on combatting violence against women and domestic violence⁵⁰ and the DSA;
66. Strongly deplores and condemns the spread of hate crime and hate speech, including on social media; underlines that they pose a serious threat to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights; highlights and strongly condemns the risks posed to democratic debate and fundamental rights when freedom of expression and freedom of information are exploited by anti-democratic movements and politicians to legitimise hate speech, disinformation and the intimidation of journalists and minorities; underlines that freedom of expression must be exercised within the law and in line with Article 11 of the Charter, and cannot be used as a pretext for undermining democracy and fundamental rights;
67. Urges the Commission and the Member States to take the necessary measures to fight hate speech and hate crime, both offline and online, especially where such conduct can escalate into violence, including gender-based violence; further stresses the importance of putting in place EU legislation to combat hate crimes and hate speech, including on grounds such as gender identity and sexual orientation; encourages the Commission to follow up on the LGBTIQ+ equality strategy 2026-2030; welcomes the Commission's initiative to expand the list of EU crimes under Article 83(1) TFEU to

⁵⁰ Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence (OJ L, 2024/1385, 24.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1385/oj>).

include hate speech and hate crime, highlighting the need to ensure a robust EU criminal law response in this regard;

68. Urges the Council to extend the current list of 'EU crimes' under Article 83(1) TFEU to include hate speech and hate crime; calls on the Council to activate the 'passerelle clause' in this regard; calls on the Commission to be ready to initiate the second stage of the procedure and propose a directive aimed at combatting hate speech and hate crimes both offline and online, and to take into account Parliament's position in this regard⁵¹;
69. Emphasises that the lack of, or the denial of, access to SRHR, including safe and legal abortion, is a form of gender-based violence and a violation of human and fundamental rights; urges the Commission to actively work towards ensuring broad accessibility to SRHR; reiterates its call for the inclusion of the right to safe and legal abortion in the Charter;
70. Urges the Commission to ensure a proper follow-up to the 'My Voice My Choice: For Safe And Accessible Abortion' European Citizens' Initiative and to put forward a proposal for a financial mechanism to support Member States willing to provide safe sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including safe and legal abortion, for those in the EU who still lack access to such services;
71. Stresses that there is still no EU-wide definition of rape based on the lack of consent; calls on the Member States to ensure that there is no assumption in law nor in practice that consent is given where there is absence of physical resistance to sexual conduct, regardless of whether the perpetrator threatened or used physical violence or whether the victim is in an intimate relationship with, or married to, the perpetrator; further urges the Member States that have not yet done so to include in their national legislation a definition of rape based on the absence of freely given consent, in line with the Istanbul Convention and evolving international standards; calls on the Commission to put forward a proposal for such a definition at EU level; reiterates that sexual violence, including rape, is a grave violation of human rights and human dignity;
72. Recalls the body of documents published in connection with the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, which indicates that countless crimes have been committed and, consequently, that there is a large group of hidden perpetrators; notes that it is well documented that Epstein had a network extending deep into the corridors of power across Europe, including royalty, top diplomats and politicians; condemns the fact that it has not yet been established how many, and which, members of this network were aware of or involved in

⁵¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2024-0044_EN.html.

human trafficking, the sexual exploitation of children, fraud and financial crime; stresses not only that it is seriously concerning that these individuals remain at large, but also that the lack of full accountability undermines the rule of law and public trust in democratic institutions; stresses that cases involving cross-border elements within the EU should be addressed at EU level; questions the EU's ability to investigate, prevent and combat complex cross-border crime committed by society's elites; urges the Commission to promptly task the EU's expert centre for crime prevention (Europol), together with the European Anti-Fraud Office and national authorities, to investigate and analyse the nature of this criminal activity, as well as to identify those who can be held accountable;

73. Urges the Member States to formally recognise femicide as a distinct gender-based crime in national legislation, to adopt and enforce comprehensive strategies to prevent and combat it, to ensure effective investigation and prosecution of all cases, and to provide specialised shelters, counselling and compensation mechanisms for victims' relatives;
74. Condemns in the strongest terms the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence as a weapon of war, and recalls that such conduct can amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity under international law; urges the strengthening of international efforts to document these crimes, and emphasises the importance of ensuring access to safe and legal abortion for victims of sexual violence, including victims of rape in the context of war;
75. Calls on all Member States to ratify the Istanbul Convention; expresses deep concern over the Member States that have not yet ratified it and over any withdrawals from the Istanbul Convention; underlines that such developments are the result of a prolonged disinformation campaign on the Convention's scope and aims by anti-democratic forces across the EU;

Prisoners and conditions of detention

76. Recalls that the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, set out in Article 4 of the Charter and Article 3 of the ECHR, is absolute and non-derogable, and fully applies to all persons, including those deprived of liberty; urges the Member States to guarantee that the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and national preventive mechanisms can conduct unrestricted visits to all places of detention and that their recommendations are fully implemented;
77. Notes with concern that, in some Member States, pre-trial detention is used excessively or without sufficient justification; urges the Member States to ensure that deprivation of liberty before trial is applied only as a last resort, in full compliance with ECHR standards

and the presumption of innocence, and to strengthen judicial oversight and the periodic review of detention decisions;

78. Strongly condemns systematic overcrowding, the lack of medical care and the unlawful prolonging of pre-trial detention; calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure full compliance with the Nelson Mandela Rules, the UN Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol and the European Prison Rules by improving detention conditions in all prisons and adopting preventive and rehabilitative measures, including in juvenile facilities, as well as by tackling overcrowding, ensuring access to healthcare and psychological support and strengthening suicide prevention measures; stresses that the protection of human dignity is a measure of society's democratic strength;
79. Calls on the Commission to address serious violations in prisons, in line with the EU's obligation to uphold the values enshrined in Article 2 TEU;

Civil society under threat

80. Recalls that, according to Article 11(2) TEU, the EU institutions must maintain an open, transparent and structured dialogue with CSOs and representative associations; calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure effective consultation processes in line with good governance standards, to promote the engagement and effective participation of citizens and CSOs in policymaking, including in matters related to the protection and promotion of fundamental rights, and to support their capacity to participate in EU policies, while ensuring transparency and full compliance with applicable rules;
81. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure sustainable, flexible and accessible funding for CSOs and access to justice;
82. Welcomes the Commission's proposal, in the context of the next MFF, to enable the redistribution of frozen funds to CSOs, and stresses the need to guarantee that a share of such resources can support organisations working to promote fundamental rights and other EU values in Member States where funds remain frozen; recalls the importance of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme in protecting and promoting the rights and values enshrined in the Treaties, the Charter and the applicable international human rights conventions, in particular by supporting CSOs and encouraging civic and democratic participation, in order to sustain and further develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies; considers that the new AgoraEU programme must safeguard at least the same level of ambition as the CERV programme;

83. Welcomes the Commission's EU strategy for civil society; further welcomes the fact that the strategy is focused on CSOs and HRDs, and includes actions such as strengthening effective and meaningful engagement with civil society, ensuring an open, safe and enabling civic space by providing support and protection, including the reduction of administrative burdens for CSOs on the ground, and supporting CSOs with adequate, sustainable and transparent funding; urges the Commission to ensure the full implementation of the strategy and to systematically monitor the situation of civic space in its rule of law reports;
84. Expresses deep concern about the continued shrinking civic space and the increasing persecution of CSOs and HRDs in several Member States, particularly those working in the areas of anti-racism, climate justice, LGBTIQ+ rights, women's rights and migration; notes that these groups face a range of threats, including legal and financial restrictions, funding suspensions, smear campaigns, intimidation and criminalisation; regrets that restrictions on the freedoms of assembly, expression and association often disproportionately affect specific groups or causes;
85. Stresses that the right to peaceful assembly, freedom of association and expression, and freedom of the arts and sciences are fundamental rights protected by international and EU law and are essential for democracy; underlines that freedom of association, as guaranteed by Article 12 of the Charter and Article 11 of the ECHR, is a cornerstone of a democratic society;
86. Condemns the criminalisation of humanitarian workers and activists; encourages the Member States to ensure that humanitarian assistance provided to vulnerable persons is not criminalised; recalls that EU legislation must be aligned with European and international human rights standards, and calls on the Commission and the Member States to address the situations where such alignment is lacking;
87. Notes with concern that several Member States and candidate and potential candidate countries have imposed disproportionate measures on humanitarian workers and activists; strongly condemns the use of 'foreign agent laws', which stifle dissent, target CSOs and restrict their operations, creating a chilling effect on civil society and HRDs; condemns the disproportionate measures in some Member States against peaceful demonstrations, including pre-emptive bans, the use of excessive force and the detention of protesters, with chilling effects; calls on the Member States to refrain from disproportionate legal action against those taking part in peaceful demonstrations;
88. Urges the Commission and the Member States to ensure that the right to peaceful assembly can be exercised, to refrain from

proposing or implementing measures that could have a chilling effect on civic space, noting with concern that such attempts have been observed in some Member States, and to facilitate healthy debate on any issue of public concern; condemns any practice that has a chilling effect on peaceful demonstrations, such as the use of excessive force, surveillance and judicial harassment;

89. Calls on the Commission to set up a rapid response mechanism in the EU to support threatened CSOs and HRDs that protect and promote EU values; calls on the Commission to establish a European civic space index to monitor and report annually on the enabling environment for civil society; further calls for the transparency of funding for all actors in the EU Transparency Register;
90. Urges the Member States to implement Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/758 on protecting journalists and human rights defenders who engage in public participation⁵²;

Structural racism and discrimination

91. Recalls that the EU Treaties and the Charter enshrine the EU's mandate and responsibility for combating discrimination and for promoting equal treatment for all; calls on the Commission to address the gaps in the EU anti-discrimination framework and urges the Member States to fully and properly implement existing EU anti-discrimination legislation;
92. Welcomes the Commission's decision to reverse the withdrawal of the proposed Horizontal Anti-Discrimination Directive; reiterates its calls to unblock the discussions in the Council on the directive without delay and urges Member States to conclude an agreement thereon;
93. Recognises and condemns the existence of structural racism in the EU, driven by stereotypes fostered by public discourse, which result in discrimination against minorities in all areas of their lives; is deeply concerned by individual, structural and institutional forms of racism and xenophobia in the EU and rising discrimination against Arabs⁵³, Black Europeans⁵⁴, people of Asian descent⁵⁵, Jewish

⁵² Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/758 of 27 April 2022 on protecting journalists and human rights defenders who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings ('Strategic lawsuits against public participation') (OJ L 138, 17.5.2022, p. 30, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2022/758/oj>).

⁵³ https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2017-eu-midis-ii-main-results_en.pdf.

⁵⁴ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2026/antisemitism-overview>.

⁵⁵ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2024/being-muslim-eu>.

people⁵⁶, Muslims⁵⁷ and Roma people⁵⁸; urges the Member States to combat discrimination at all levels;

94. Stresses the need to fight against all forms of discrimination before the law; expresses its concern over the lack of progress in, and implementation of, equality and anti-discrimination legislation in some Member States; regrets the fact that, despite existing EU legislation such as Directive 2000/78/EC on equal treatment⁵⁹, gaps in the legal framework, implementation and enforcement persist, leaving victims without adequate legal remedies; recalls that Member States' legal frameworks must enshrine the principle of equal treatment within their legal systems and ensure effective access to justice for all individuals; calls on the Commission to act in cases of non-compliance with these principles;
95. Underlines that access to EU funds should be conditional on full compliance with fundamental rights, including the principle of non-discrimination, and calls for transparent earmarking to guarantee long-term support for human rights and equality-focused CSOs;
96. Urges the Member States, in particular Hungary, to review any laws or policies that discriminate against LGBTIQ+ persons and rainbow families; calls on Hungary to ensure that national constitutional and legislative frameworks cannot be misused to undermine the primacy of EU law or to stigmatise minorities under the pretext of 'national identity'; strongly condemns the continued application of the so-called child-protection law in Hungary, which constitutes direct discrimination contrary to Articles 7, 11, 21 and 24 of the Charter⁶⁰; calls on the Commission to urgently assess the compatibility of Hungary's law on the protection of local identity with EU law, in particular the Racial Equality Directive and the Charter;
97. Calls on the Commission to take all necessary measures, including the launch of infringement procedures, where breaches are

⁵⁶ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2025/roma-survey-2024>.

⁵⁷ <https://infocuria.curia.europa.eu/tabs/document?source=document&text=&docid=300973&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=900537>.

⁵⁸ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2025/roma-survey-2024>.

⁵⁹ Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation (OJ L 303, 2.12.2000, p. 16, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/78/oj>).

⁶⁰ <https://infocuria.curia.europa.eu/tabs/document?source=document&text=&docid=300973&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=900537>.

identified; calls on the Member States to ensure that local housing and residence policies fully comply with the principles of equality and non-discrimination and do not result in ethnic or socio-economic segregation;

98. Underlines that the primacy of EU law constitutes the cornerstone of the functioning of the Union and of respect for the rule of law across Member States, to which all Member States commit upon accession; urges all Member States to comply with the current case-law of the CJEU and the ECtHR; calls on the Commission to carefully monitor the implementation by Member States of judgments delivered by the CJEU and the ECtHR, with particular attention to judgments concerning non-discrimination, gender equality and the rights of minorities;
99. Calls on the Commission to present new ambitious equality and anti-racism strategies for the upcoming years, which also include Parliament's recommendations, in order to address discrimination comprehensively across all grounds and areas of life; highlights the need to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach across all existing and forthcoming strategies, frameworks and action plans in order to maximise synergies and ensure coherence in their implementation;
100. Calls on all Member States to adopt and fully implement national action plans against racism or strategies with ambitious standards, including clear targets, timelines and budgets; calls on the Commission to ensure regular monitoring mechanisms, in cooperation with civil society;
101. Underlines that third-country nationals in the EU, must be treated in a non-discriminatory manner; points out that third-country nationals have the right to apply for international protection under international and EU law, including in accordance with the principle of non-refoulement; calls on the Member States to uphold the rule of law and the fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter and to implement the legislation adopted by the co-legislators; stresses the binding nature of the rulings of the CJEU and the ECtHR;
102. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to prohibit racial profiling and other discriminatory practices, including at borders, to allocate substantial resources to inclusion- and rights-based initiatives and to establish independent monitoring, accountability and complaint mechanisms; calls on the Commission to establish binding human rights and equality impact assessments to prevent algorithmic discrimination; further calls on the Commission and the Member States to address the disproportionate exposure of racialised communities to pollution, environmental degradation and climate-related risks;

103. Calls on the Member States to establish national human rights institutions, in accordance with the UN Paris Principles, to guarantee their independence and their capacity to carry out their tasks effectively, and to provide safeguards against political interference;
104. Calls on Member States to fully implement Directive (EU) 2024/1500⁶¹ and Directive (EU) 2024/1499⁶², which establish minimum standards for Equality Bodies; calls for concrete measures to guarantee the independence of equality bodies and to ensure their effectiveness in promoting equality; encourages support for CSOs in developing and disseminating educational initiatives to promote equality and in ensuring broad outreach and accessibility;
105. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take effective action against antisemitism, xenophobia, racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia and any other form of prejudice, intolerance, discrimination or hate crime in a holistic manner; further calls for sustained efforts at both EU and national levels to monitor, prevent and prosecute related hate crimes and to protect minorities;
106. Notes with concern the findings of the FRA, which indicate a significant rise in antisemitism across the Union, including online, in public spaces and within local communities; stresses that many Jewish individuals report obstacles to openly expressing their identity and continue to face safety concerns; urges the Commission and the Member States to strengthen prevention, reporting and victim support mechanisms, to accelerate the implementation EU strategy on combatting antisemitism and ensure full enforcement of EU and national law, and to enhance education, awareness-raising and security measures where needed; strongly condemns the rising levels of antisemitism across the EU;
107. Is worried that some policies adopted in some Member States have led to discrimination against certain groups, including those defined

⁶¹ Directive (EU) 2024/1500 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on standards for equality bodies in the field of equal treatment and equal opportunities between women and men in matters of employment and occupation, and amending Directives 2006/54/EC and 2010/41/EU (OJ L, 2024/1500, 29.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1500/oj>).

⁶² Council Directive (EU) 2024/1499 of 7 May 2024 on standards for equality bodies in the field of equal treatment between persons irrespective of their racial or ethnic origin, equal treatment in matters of employment and occupation between persons irrespective of their religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, equal treatment between women and men in matters of social security and in the access to and supply of goods and services, and amending Directives 2000/43/EC and 2004/113/EC (OJ L, 2024/1499, 29.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1499/oj>).

by race, colour, ethnic origin, language, religion, disability or sexual orientation; denounces the fact that the effects of such policies include discriminatory legal and law enforcement practices, as well as the delegitimising – and in some instances the criminalising or attempted criminalising – of political, religious and other forms of discourse; calls on the Member States to refrain from such practices or from adopting policies and legislation that could lead to such consequences for these groups;

108. Strongly condemns any form of discrimination and hostility against religious communities, including Islamophobia, and all other forms of discrimination and racism across the EU, including acts of violence, intimidation, hate speech and the display of hate symbols in public spaces; calls on the Member States and candidate countries to make sure that members of all minorities are treated equally before the law;
109. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to address the discrimination and social exclusion faced by vulnerable groups, including Roma, and to ensure the effective implementation of the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation; urges the Member States to implement the judgments of the ECtHR concerning the rights of Roma people, and calls on the Commission to monitor their implementation;
110. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to combat discrimination against persons with disabilities and to promote their full inclusion and participation in society; further calls on the EU and the Member States to follow the recommendations of the CRPD to end discrimination against all persons with disabilities and to ensure their equal enjoyment of fundamental rights and full participation in all areas of society⁶³;
111. Condemns all forms of violence and coercion against persons with disabilities, particularly forced sterilisation, which constitutes a grave violation of human dignity and bodily integrity; calls on the Commission and the Member States to criminalise forced sterilisation based on disability or legal capacity without exception and to provide reparation to survivors; calls for an EU action plan on equality and intersectionality; urges the recognition and inclusion of national sign languages as part of the EU's linguistic diversity;
112. Calls for the reinforcement of the EU Disability Platform as the permanent participatory mechanism for policy dialogue with organisations of persons with disabilities; requests that the Commission maintain a transparent monitoring framework for the

EU strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030, with annual public reporting and meaningful involvement of civil society; stresses that the EU institutions must lead by example by ensuring accessibility, inclusive recruitment and a significant increase in staff with disabilities within the EU administration; supports the implementation of a disability action plan in EU external action, ensuring that the EU's development and humanitarian programmes fully integrate the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with Article 32 of the CRPD;

Protecting social and economic rights and addressing environmental impacts

113. Calls on the Commission to ensure that EU funds dedicated to promoting social inclusion and improving living standards – including access to affordable housing, quality education, social security and healthcare – are used effectively and transparently; expresses concern about recent cases of misuse of funds;
114. Urges the Commission to strengthen monitoring, auditing and direct community involvement to guarantee that every euro reaches its intended beneficiaries and contributes to a genuine improvement in the living conditions of disadvantaged and marginalised groups, including ethnic minorities and people affected by the green and digital transition; calls on the Member States to ensure respect for the European Social Charter and the European Pillar of Social Rights; calls on the Commission to closely monitor their implementation and to take action in cases of insufficient implementation;
115. Expresses concern that housing is treated as a commodity; calls for increasing access to social and affordable housing and for adopting long-term, rights-based housing strategies that are also focused on the prevention of homelessness; urges the Commission to ensure that the forthcoming EU affordable housing action plan prioritises accessibility, affordability and energy efficiency, and to consider the establishment of a dedicated fund;
116. Underlines the importance of providing access to justice, transparency and participation in environmental matters; requests that measures aimed at achieving a high level of environmental protection and improving the quality of the environment, as enshrined in Article 37 of the Charter, be integrated into the policies of the Union; reiterates its call for the right to a healthy environment to be recognised in the Charter; urges the EU and the Member States to take immediate action to fight climate change; reiterates its call on the Commission to extend the mandate of the EPPO to include environmental crimes;
117. Recalls that poverty constitutes a violation of human dignity,

undermining the full realisation of fundamental rights as recognised by the Charter and Article 9 TFEU; stresses that the fight against poverty must therefore be a central priority for the EU and all Member States; calls for the integration of poverty eradication objectives into relevant EU economic, social and environmental policies through a mainstreaming approach aligned with the European Pillar of Social Rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 1); urges the Commission to enshrine the eradication of poverty as a horizontal objective in the next EU strategic cycle and to establish clear governance and monitoring mechanisms;

118. Reiterates that access to an adequate income is a prerequisite for living a life in dignity; notes that, as a follow-up to the Commission proposal for a Council recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion, an EU directive on adequate minimum income could contribute to the goal of reducing poverty by at least half in all Member States by 2030;
119. Calls on the Commission to develop a European anti-poverty strategy with the aim of eliminating poverty by 2035, including measurable intermediate targets; urges the Commission to create an EU anti-poverty task force, with the aim of monitoring the implementation and coordination of the upcoming EU anti-poverty strategy and of tracking multidimensional poverty and inequality across Member States; calls for structured participation of people experiencing poverty and their representative organisations;
120. Highlights that poverty intersects with gender, age, disability, ethnic origin, migration status and rural or regional disadvantage; calls for targeted anti-poverty measures; stresses that combating intersectional poverty requires a combination of measures, including anti-discrimination policy, quality employment, affordable services, and measures enhancing employability;
121. Recognises that the meaningful participation of people experiencing poverty is essential to democratic legitimacy and the effectiveness of anti-poverty policies; calls for permanent dialogue structures at EU and national levels with CSOs and social partners in order to enhance social inclusion;

Looking beyond 2025

122. Recalls that the foundations of the EU project included the well-being of people as a pillar and considers that, regardless of any geopolitical, security and socioeconomic challenges, the EU cannot disregard the social and fundamental rights dimensions on which it was built; requests that the Commission duly take into account the well-being of individuals, including the most vulnerable, in all existing and upcoming EU policies, and to include food and health

security in its political security agenda;

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123. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.