

**Question for written answer E-002173/2024**

**to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Breach of the principles of the rule of law in France by the Minister for the Interior

On Saturday 28 September, the French Minister of Interior, Bruno Retailleau, said in *Le Journal du dimanche* that ‘the rule of law is not inviolable or sacred’. A statement of that kind from the Minister responsible for the proper exercise of civil liberties is more than simply shocking – it is dangerous. More than anything, it is wholly at odds with the values of the European Union, as enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU).

When Hungary severely violated the values of the European Union laid down in Article 2 TEU, as well as the principles of the rule of law, the Commission was able to trigger the procedures provided for in Article 7 TEU and in the Regulation on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget.

1. Will the Commission be able to exercise the same vigilance where France is concerned?
2. Is it concerned about the statements made by the French Minister of the Interior?
3. Does it plan to take steps to protect the rule of law?

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