

**Question for written answer E-003586/2015
to the Council**
Rule 130
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică (S&D)

Subject: The rule of law

The rule of law is referred to in Article 2 TEU, as one of the founding values of the European Union, together with the respect of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. The rule of law is also referred to in the preamble of the Treaty on the European Union and in the Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union.

However, the values and principles mentioned above are not effectively ensured or equally protected in all EU Member States.

The EU needs an efficient instrument, in addition to Article 7 TEU, for the situations when Member States do not offer protection against discrimination, marginalisation and persecution. What is needed first and foremost is a supervisory mechanism regarding discrimination and the rights of minorities.

On 11 March 2014, the Commission presented a Communication that lays down a framework for the protection of the rule of law and, on 16 December 2014, the Council decided to start an annual dialogue regarding the rule of law. Although this initiative is a step in the right direction, it is not sufficient.

How will the Council go about creating an efficient mechanism that would ensure the compliance with the fundamental EU values in the Member States?