

**Question for written answer E-000081/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Polish Government's failure to uphold European values

Following the elections of 25 October 2015, Poland's new, ultra-conservative government has set about systematically removing all checks and balances that stand in its way.

Having stripped the Constitutional Court of its powers and replaced the heads of the country's main agencies with political appointees, it is now turning its sights on the state-owned media.

Given its role as guardian of the Treaties, has the Commission decided to take any action in response to the blatant disregard being shown for the values espoused by the European Union?

1. What lessons have been learned from Europe's half-hearted response to similar moves by Mr Orbán in Hungary? Is serious thought being given to suspending the Polish Government's voting rights pursuant to Article 7 of the TEU?
2. What compelling means of dissuading the Polish Government from adopting legislation restricting the right to information, undermining media pluralism and the justice system and circumscribing the powers of national institutions and agencies can the Commission bring to bear?