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Reply

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Respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities are the fundamental values on which the Union is founded. The Council considers that such values must continue to be actively cultivated, protected, promoted, enforced and shared among the citizens and peoples and remain at the heart of the EU project.

It is therefore for each Presidency of the Council to protect and advance these fundamental values during its term.

This has been the case for the Romanian Presidency for instance during the ongoing negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework and in particular with regard to the Rights and Values programme for the period 2021-2027, on which a Common Understanding was reached¹.

Under this Presidency, the Council has also held discussions on pending procedures pursuant to Article 7 TEU, which aim to protect these fundamental values.

The Council is determined to continue its work along these lines.

¹ 7249/19.