

**Does your Parliament/ Chamber consider the full respect of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, as per Article 2 TEU, necessary for good cooperation and mutual trust within the EU?**

*Yes. The Grand Committee and the Constitutional Committee has emphasized the importance of the full respect of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights in many opinions (eg. SuVM 1/2014 vp; SuVL 2/2017 vp).*

**Does your Parliament/Chamber discuss annual reports on Democracy, Rule of Law and/ or Fundamental Rights?**

*Yes.*

*The Parliament discuss on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights every year when it receives f.ex. the annual report of The Chancellor of Justice, the annual report of the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the annual report of the [Finnish Delegation to the Council of Europe](#).*

*Once in the 4 – 8 years the Government gives to the Parliament the Government´s Report on Democracy Policy and the Governments´s Human Rights Report. Several Committees make their statements of the reports before the Constitutional Law Committee or the Foreign Affairs Committee makes the committee report and the matter comes back to the plenary session to be discussed by the MPs. When the Parliament has given its opinion of the report the Government can begin to make the Action Plan on Democracy policy and the Nation Action Plan on Fundamental Rights and Human Rights where the Government tells how it will implement the reports. When the Government has accepted the Action Plans they are send to the Committees and Committees have the possibility to give their statement of the action plan to the Government.*

*In addition, the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings submits an extensive report with recommendations to Parliament every four years. The Employment and Equality Committee makes the committee report of the report and f.ex. the Administration Committee issues a statement to the Employment and Equality Committee.*

*All those reports are taken to the same proceeding in the Parliament. The proceeding begins when the report takes to the preliminary debate in the Plenary session of the Parliament. After the preliminary debate the report refers for preparatory consideration to a select committee (the Committee preparing the matter), which thoroughly considers the matter and hears experts. At the preliminary debate the Parliament may also decide that one or more other Committees shall issue a statement to the Committee preparing the matter. The Committee preparing the matter may also request the statement of another Committee. The Committee preparing the matter drafts a committee report where it presents its views on a matter together with grounds and recommends what course of action Parliament should take. A committee report also contains a motion for a resolution. A committee report may propose that Parliament issue a statement or adopt a position, for*

*example regarding how the Government should proceed in implementing the report. When the committee report has been completed, preparation of the matter continues in plenary session. The report returns to the plenary session of the Parliament for a single hearing where all MPs can discuss the matter and take part to the decision making. The decision of the Parliament notifies to the maker of the report by way of a parliamentary communication.*

**Does your Parliament/Chamber have any procedure to assess the state of DRF annually at national level?**

**If so:**

**- which bodies are vested with the power to perform this assessment or monitoring?**

*No.*

**Does your Parliament/Chamber have debates on the situation of Democracy, Rule of Law and/ or Fundamental Rights (DRF)?**

*Yes*

**If so:**

**- how often is this debate taking place?**

*There is no direct statistical data available, but one can estimate that such debates are a common and a monthly (sometimes even weekly) feature in the plenary and various committee meetings.*

**- can you describe briefly if the debates are incident driven or systematic?**

*Debates are partly incident driven but also systematic depending on the circumstances and the governmental dossier at hand.*

**- How is/ are the DRF debate(s) organised?**

*Most of the DRF debates are organised in connection with different kind of reports (which are mentioned above) and they are taken to the same proceeding in the Parliament. The proceeding in the Parliament is also described above.*

**- Is there a special DRF rapporteur?**

*No, we do not have rapporteurs in the Parliament of Finland.*

**- Is/ are the DRF debate(s) based on a report? If so, who provides the report?**

*Yes. The DRF debates are often based on a report. As mentioned above f.ex. the Government, the Chancellor of Justice, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the [Finnish Delegation to the Council of Europe](#) and [The National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings](#) provide reports to the Parliament.*

*The DRF questions are also an integral part of the Government report on EU policy which has been presented to the Finnish Parliament annually.*

*Still, the DRF debates can be incident driven, too, and come up f.ex. in the Question Time on Thursdays, when ministers must answer mps' oral questions.*

**As National Parliaments play a key role in maintaining the necessary continuous debate within the common Union consensus on DRF, the DRF Pact proposes an interparliamentary debate.**

**- How could the work of your Parliament/Chamber contribute to this annual DRF policy cycle?**

*Any exchange of views and best practices brings value-added to the important matter at hand.*

**- How would your Parliament/Chamber ensure compliance with commitments by all relevant parties?**

*It's up to each Parliament to keep its national government parliamentary responsible for its actions in accordance with the national constitutional arrangements in question. The Constitutional Law Committee is mainly responsible for issuing statements on the constitutionality of legislative proposals and other matters brought to its attention, as well as their relation to international human rights treaties.*

**- Would the appointment of a special DRF rapporteur in your Parliament/Chamber be helpful to safeguard the bottom up approach?**

*Unable to answer this question as the Rapporteur system is unknown to our parliamentary system.*

**Finally, what suggestions does your Parliament/Chamber have for ensuring compliance with Article 2 TEU by all Member States?**

*Use of all the mechanisms provided in the EU Treaties, peer pressure, dialogue in various level, informal channels of communication are all useful tools for ensuring compliance.*