

**Question for written answer E-005930/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Louis Michel (ALDE), Jean-Marie Cavada (ALDE), Cecilia Wikström (ALDE), Gérard Deprez (ALDE) and Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE)

Subject: Attacks on civil liberties and the rule of law in Hungary

The recent investigation of civil rights organisations launched by the Hungarian Government Control Office (Kehi) – in the course of which the organisations in question were ordered to hand over all their files and details of the people they have helped – demonstrates a systematic disregard for the rule of law in Hungary and can be seen as a further serious attack on the fundamental rights which the EU espouses. Many NGOs have also reported widespread discrimination against certain groups, for example Roma, immigrants and homeless people. What is more, recent legislation could pose a new, serious threat to the pluralism and independence of the media, which have already been severely undermined since 2010.

Can the Commission give details of its discussions with the Hungarian authorities about the clear violations of fundamental rights and civil liberties which are taking place in Hungary?

Does the Commission intend to launch a 'pre-Article 7' procedure, as outlined in its recent communication on 'a new EU framework to strengthen the rule of law', given that the systematic threat to the rule of law in Hungary could turn into a 'clear risk of a serious breach' of EU values within the meaning of Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union?