

**Question for written answer E-003795/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights

Considering the serious shortcomings at the EU when it comes to instruments to defend the principles of democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights, on 25 October 2016 the European Parliament adopted a legislative initiative report which proposes in its recommendations to the Commission, as its principal measure, the creation of a comprehensive mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights.

To this effect, Parliament has requested that the Commission, on the basis of Article 295 TFEU, submit a proposal for a Union Pact for democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, in the form of an interinstitutional agreement, with measures to encourage cooperation between the EU and its Member States within the framework of Article 7 TEU and to integrate, align and complement existing mechanisms.

In that regard, the Commission is asked to enter into meaningful dialogue with civil society and to ensure that the proposal reflects its contribution and role.

By what date does the Commission intend to present its proposal for the interinstitutional pact? How many meetings has it held with civil society on the matter? How is the pact proposal progressing in general?