Around 2050 letters related to Hungary or Poland were assigned to the Justice Policy and Rule of Law Unit of the Commission’s Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers between 1 January 2012 and 12 April 2022, in addition to letters assigned to other services of the Commission involved in related matters. In particular, since 23 November 2021, when the Commission published a complaint form to report cases relevant for the application of the Regulation (EC, Euratom) 2020/2092\(^1\), five letters from complainants requesting EU funding to be withdrawn and/or EU payments to be withheld from Hungary or Poland were received. It is otherwise not possible to say how many exactly of those 2050 letters called for withdrawal of funds. However, the Commission can confirm that citizens regularly call on it to take budgetary measures against Member States that violate the principles of the rule of law. This call ‘from the public at large’ has been explicitly recognised in the Explanatory Memorandum of the Commission’s legislative proposal for the Regulation on the protection of the EU’s budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States of May 2018\(^2\). It is precisely for this reason that the Commission has published the dedicated complaint form mentioned above.

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