The Commission would like to assure the Honourable Member that it is using the same methodology for all the Member States. This methodology has been discussed with the Member States in the network of rule of law contact points and is made public on the Commission’s website. It clearly indicates the main sources of the report, which include in particular written input received from Member States, written contributions received during the targeted stakeholder consultation and information produced by international organisations or received from national authorities and stakeholders during country visits. Due consideration is given to information from such sources, taking into account their factual correctness, comprehensiveness, quality, reliability and relevance.

As regards references to press articles available online, to which the Honourable Member refers, the Commission notes that these are used to portray various factual developments on the ground, which in 2021 were very dynamic. When referring in the Report to information received through stakeholder contributions or press reports, where relevant, attention is paid to corroborating the information via various sources.