

**Question for written answer E-002161/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jadwiga Wiśniewska (ECR)

Subject: Use of a single methodology – second report on the rule of law

The Commission has published its second report on the rule of law in specific Member States. Despite reassurances that the Commission would treat all Member States equally, it is evident that the methodology used to draw up the national reports significantly differs for certain countries. This is particularly clear when looking at the sources used in the Commission's report. For the majority of Member States, the Commission based the reports on information provided by that country's government. Websites tended not to be used as resources.

However, websites accounted for 22, or one fifth, of the sources for the report on Poland. This is completely different from the reports for other Member States. Websites were used as sources four times for the report on Germany, six times for Spain, twice for France and just once for Sweden. It is hard to believe that in other Member States there are no internet articles critical of the government, but the Commission did not consider it relevant to use these as sources as it did in the case of Poland.

In view of the above:

1. Why does the Commission not use a single methodology in relation to websites, using them in the same way and to the same degree for all Member States?
2. Why, in the case of Poland, does the Commission use less information provided by the government and more information from websites?
3. Will the Commission draw up a more sound methodology to ensure that the reports are reliable and credible?