

**Question for written answer E-000894/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Criticism from the Court of Auditors

The Court of Auditors examined the Commission's new instruments designed to protect the financial interests of the EU. It concluded that, rather unusually, strict action was being taken only against Hungary for breaches of the rule of law and that no other country was being treated in the same way. What is particularly concerning here is that the President of the Commission can flip-flop and announce from one day to the next whether a country is acting contrary to or in accordance with the rule of law.

With regard to Poland, however, the Commission believes that the shortcomings in the judicial system have now been rectified, even though the necessary reform is actually still stuck in the parliamentary procedure.

1. Has the Commission applied an unfair and stricter standard to Hungary than to other Member States?
2. In light of the above, could it be said that the Commission's assessment of Poland lacks a legal basis and is therefore incompatible with the rule of law?
3. Is the Commission giving the new Polish government, which is not critical of the EU, the benefit of the doubt and is it therefore planning to release the EUR 137 billion that had been frozen?

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