

**Question for written answer P-000749/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Siegfried Mureşan (PPE)

Subject: The rule of law in Romania

The rule of law is the backbone of any democracy and one of the main principles on which the EU is founded, as is clearly stated in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union.

On 31 January 2017, the Government of Romania adopted an emergency decree making several changes to the criminal law statutes. Among other changes, the emergency decree redefines and partially decriminalises offences related to the abuse of public office. More specifically, abuse of public office is only to be classified as a crime if the damages involved exceed 200 000 lei. Finally, the emergency decree restricts the period during which a criminal offence may be reported to six months.

These changes have had a negative impact on the rule of law in Romania. They also clearly undermine the judicial system and represent a step backwards from the reform process that began after accession to the EU.

1. Has the Commission assessed the situation in Romania as representing a systemic threat to the rule of law?
2. Is the Commission considering initiating the procedures stipulated in the EU Framework to strengthen the Rule of Law?