The Commission welcomes the publication of the results of the population census, the first since 2002. This is a major achievement: up-to-date data on population is essential for planning and implementing adequate social, demographic and economic policies for the benefit of all citizens. As stated in the 2021 Report on North Macedonia⁠¹, the Law and the Methodology on which the preparation, organisation and conduct of the census were based are broadly compliant with the relevant standards defined in the EU’s statistical legislation.

As provided in Article 2 of the Treaty on the EU, the respect for the rule of law and fundamental rights are key values upon which the EU is built. The Commission monitors and reports on progress in these areas, including in the enlargement package⁡. The official launch of accession negotiations, under the revised enlargement methodology, will put an even stronger focus on fundamental rights and EU values.

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² https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/2021-communication-eu-enlargement-policy_en