

A Europe of Values

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Rule of Law and performance mechanisms for the EU have been discussed in the past and have now once again surfaced during the MFF discussions. How can they be applied effectively within the EU itself? It is not only Hungary and Poland that should be scrutinised. There is a clear need for a new mechanism that will constantly assess the suitability of any member state to the EU as a whole. But how can the EU ensure impartial and effective scrutiny?

For many years, the EU has faced numerous accusations that it turns a blind eye towards the actions of certain governments of members states, in particular towards actions related to the (mis)use of EU funds. It has moved from a problem of corruption to a problem of values because certain member states seem to move away from the European values and obligations of respecting the Rule of Law.

Through a series of 3 events focused on these issues and on finding solutions, ELF aims to create a publication that will serve the policy and decision makers in their fight to save the EU project. The goal is to bring together experts and relevant stakeholders and discuss the issues in an open manner, which could lead to the creation of certain problem-solving proposals and a toolkit/roadmap.

EVENT 1

The story of the CVM in Romania and Bulgaria

Online event

16 June 2021, 09:30 – 12:00 (CEST)

ABOUT THE EVENT

As the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM) for Romania and Bulgaria, which was put in place by the European Commission from 1 January 2007, is still being used to assess and support the progress of these 2 EU member states, ELF believes that it is a good opportunity to look back at what the CVM achieved and to learn from these past experiences. After almost 14 years, it seems that the CVM did not fully meet its objectives and, in hindsight, maybe some steps could have been done differently.

In order to be better prepared for the on-going situation with several problematic EU member states, and for future member states, we need to learn from past mistakes and push forward with a conditionality mechanism that is attached to our shared European values, in particular, the respect for the Rule of Law. What have the cases of Romania and Bulgaria taught us in terms of the viability and success of this type of mechanism? How could this have been done better? And what are the most important lessons that we need to keep in mind when thinking of the present and future member states.

EVENT SCHEDULE

09:25 Participants connect to Zoom

09:30 Introductory remarks

Speaker: [Daniel Kaddik](#), Executive Director, European Liberal Forum

09:35 Part I - Closed-door expert roundtable (by invitation only)

Moderator: [Alexandra Mercescu](#), PhD, Lecturer, Faculty of Law, West University of Timisoara & Affiliated Researcher, CLEST, Nomos

Speaker: [Vlad Gheorghe](#), Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

Speaker: [Atanas Slavov](#), PhD, Associate Professor, Sofia University, Member of the Bulgarian Parliament and Member of the Executive Council of the *Yes, Bulgaria!* party

Speaker: [Judy Dempsey](#), Nonresident Senior Fellow at Carnegie Europe and Editor in Chief of Strategic Europe

Discussion topics: Rule of Law as a core principle of the EU; The CVM in Romania and Bulgaria: what went well and what did not? What are the lessons learnt? Can conditionality be attached to the respect of our shared European values?

10:55 Break

11:00 Part 2 - Public panel discussion

Moderator: [Nikolay Staykov](#), Investigative journalist and co-founder of the Anti-Corruption Fund (ACF)

Speaker: [Zinaida Zlatanova](#), Member of the Liberal Institute for Political Analyses, and former Minister of Justice in Bulgaria

Speaker: [Nedim Hovic](#), PhD Researcher, Sant' Anna School of Advanced Studies

Speaker: [Ramona Strugariu](#), Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

Discussion topics: Rule of Law as a core principle of the EU; The CVM in Romania and Bulgaria: what went well and what did not? What are the lessons learnt? Can conditionality be attached to the respect of our shared European values?

12:00 END OF THE EVENT

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