

Political Commission 5 – PC5

On migration, rule of law and justice

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Description:

Political Commission 5 on migration, rule of law and justice is committed to advancing the debate and federalist agenda on issues related to these priority topics identified by the European Citizens during the Conference on the Future of Europe: respect of human dignity, freedom of expression, democracy, promotion of equality-inclusive societies, the deepening of the rule of law mechanism, the respect of all human rights and all interrelated founding values of the European Union. It drafts, debates, and presents resolutions and recommendations to the statutory bodies of UEF.

PC 5 covers non-exhaustively items as upholding the rule of law in the Union and challenges to the EU's legal order; independence, quality, and efficiency of the judiciary; consolidation of the capacity to deal with cross-border crime; anti-corruption and public integrity; checks and balances, functioning of independent institutions and other institutional issues; state of human rights in the Union, including equality, the protection of human rights defenders and participation of civil society; implementation of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, tackling shortcomings and improving integration policies, as well as cross-cutting issues related to migration; addressing digitalisation and environmental matters related to migration, rule of law, and effective access to justice.

Priorities for 2024:

I. Implementation of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum

The European Parliament and the Council reached an agreement on The New Pact on Migration and Asylum. The package aims at providing a comprehensive reform of the EU asylum and migration policies. The Pact covers five laws on screening, Eurodac update, asylum procedures, asylum migration management, and crisis and force majeure. Ambitious, the package also raises concerns related to its implementation once it will have been approved by the EU legislators. In addition, several other pieces gained support covering reception conditions, qualifications and the resettlement framework. Matters

related to its complexity, as well as human rights implications are at the core of its criticism of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. It also targets one of the most contentious issues for the European demos. *What are the prospects of a successful implementation of this multi-decade overhaul of the EU asylum and migration policies? What EU could propose in a wider framework as a concrete follow up of the Global Compact? What cooperation on these issues with civil society? How can the EU pass a positive message aimed at the promotion of people to people contact (in particular ensuring youth safe mobility and exchange).*

2. Rule of law and fundamental rights in the aftermath of the EU elections

Rule of law is a founding value of the European Union, and a pillar for guaranteeing fundamental rights and a well-functioning single market. It covers aspects related to the independence, quality and efficiency of the judiciary; anticorruption and public integrity; checks and balances; functioning of independent institutions and government constraints; participation of civil society in democratic processes, and other areas. While several instruments have been developed at the EU level for dealing with the recent rule of law breaches and threats in the EU, including the Rule of Law Mechanism, the Rule of Law Framework or the Conditionality Regulation, challenges to an effective rule of law compliance remain in place across the Union. *How can the Federalists advance the rule of law agenda in the aftermath of the EU elections, building on the opportunities provided by the European elections results?*

3. Enlargement and rule of law: state of play and prospects

In 2023, the European Council decided to open accession negotiations with Ukraine and Moldova, and decided on the candidate status for Georgia, leading to nine candidate countries. Based on the new approach on Enlargement adopted in 2020, Rule of law, Democracy and Fundamental Rights are part of the Fundamentals in the EU accession process. The negotiations on the Fundamentals - chapter 23 - open first and close last, and drive the pace of the accession process. At the same time, the accession countries occupy some of the lowest spots in Europe in rule of law areas, thus the need for wide-ranging reforms to be adopted and effectively implemented. As previous experiences in this process have shown, it is necessary not only to deliver assistance to fulfill the benchmarks, but also to ensure that there is political impetus and that these reforms are irreversible. *What are the lessons of the current accession negotiations on these chapters, the impact of the EU developments in the area of rule of law, and what benchmarks should be at the forefront of successful Fundamentals negotiations with the newest candidates?*