

# Press release – Annual rule of law assessment and the role of national parliaments



Parliamentarians will first assess the Commission's [first annual rule of law report](#) that was published on 30 September and the necessary steps towards establishing the more comprehensive [Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights mechanism](#) proposed by Parliament.

EP Vice President Katarina Barley will deliver the opening speech, followed by interventions by Justice Commissioner [Didier Reynders](#) and Michael Roth, Minister of State for Europe the [German Presidency of the Council](#).

## **Impact on EU values of COVID-19 emergency measures**

The discussion will then turn to the measures adopted by member states to fight the pandemic and their repercussions on [EU values](#), focusing on parliamentary checks and balances. The Civil Liberties committee recently [warned that some of these measures pose a “risk of abuse of power”](#) and underlined the need to ensure appropriate parliamentary scrutiny powers.

The EU's [Fundamental Rights Agency](#) Director Michael O'Flaherty, the OSCE's Acting Head of the [Democratization Department](#) Meaghan Fitzgerald, and [Venice Commission](#) President Gianni Buquicchio, as well as academics and representatives of civil society organisations, will take part in the debate with MEPs and members of the national parliaments.

**When:** Tuesday 10 November 2020, 14.15 – 15.45 and 16.45 – 18.40

**Where:** European Parliament in Brussels, József Antall building, room 402 (remote participation)

Find here the [full agenda](#) of the inter-parliamentary committee meeting and [other useful documents](#).

You can watch the meeting live here: [part 1](#) and [part 2](#). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, journalists are strongly advised to follow it online.