

Press release – ‘Not there yet’: Rule of law conditionality trilogues continue



After conclusion of the third round of informal legislative negotiations with the Council, EP negotiators said on Tuesday:

“Some progress was made today but we are not there yet. The EP’s position is clear: we need a functioning mechanism that works in practice and protects the final recipients of the EU money. 77% of the EU taxpayers have confirmed that this is what they expect from the EU legislators”.

Next steps

The next round of informal inter-institutional negotiations is scheduled to take place on Thursday the 29th October.

EP negotiating team on Rule of Law conditionality

[Monika Hohlmeier \(EPP, DE\)](#) (Co-chair, Budgetary control)

[Johan Van Overtveldt \(ECR, BE\)](#) (Co-chair, Budgets)

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[Eider Gardiazabal Rubial \(S&D, ES\)](#) (Co-rapporteur)

[Terry Reintke \(Greens/EFA, DE\)](#) (LIBE rapporteur)

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[Hélène Laporte \(ID, FR\)](#)

Background

The European Parliament has been ready to start inter-institutional negotiations on the “rule of law conditionality” regulation since January 2019, [when MEPs approved their first reading position](#). The EP’s main demands were:

- to link EU funds to the respect to the rule of law and fundamental rights in member states;
- an “applicable mechanism” that actually can be triggered;
- to protect the beneficiaries (final recipients of EU funds);
- to include the Parliament in any decision to trigger the mechanism, and
- a panel of independent experts to assist the Commission.

In a [recent EU-wide survey](#) (conducted October 2020), 77% of Europeans insisted that the EU should only provide funds to member states if the national government implements the rule of law and democratic principles.