

Statement by the European Commission on Romania

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The Commission is concerned about current developments in Romania, especially regarding actions that appear to reduce the effective powers of independent institutions like the Constitutional Court. The rule of law, the democratic checks and balances and the independence of the judiciary are cornerstones of the European democracy and indispensable for mutual trust within the European Union. Government policy and political action must respect these principles and values.

The Commission already looks at judicial reform and anti-corruption measures in the context of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism. It is currently finalising a report summarising five years of work to address these issues in Romania. Recent developments may be putting at risk the progress made over the years.

The President of the European Commission spoke today with the Prime Minister of Romania and expressed the Commission's concerns. Prime Minister Ponta will come to Brussels next Thursday to meet President Barroso to discuss these issues. In the meantime the Commission analysis of the situation will continue and other contacts between the Commission and the Romanian authorities will be pursued.