

60th INTERNATIONAL MEP ATHENS 2024**Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs/Subcommittee on Legal Affairs (LIBE/JURI)****Preparation Module*****The question of the rise of authoritarianism in Europe***

After the COVID-19 Pandemic and Russia's invasion in Ukraine, many European Nations saw a rise of far-right, authoritarian governments and an increase of votes for far-left extremist parties. How can the EU ensure the continued democratic values it advocates remain in place throughout its Member States? How can Member States counteract the rise of extremism on either side and outside the political spectrum without violating the freedom of free speech and freedom of thought of their citizens?

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Dear delegates of the LIBE/JURI committee,

First of all, we would like to congratulate you on your place in this committee, we are very excited to have you and welcome you into the MEP-family. You will meet new people, discuss a variety of intriguing topics and explore a new city.

The topic of this committee is the rise of authoritarianism in Europe. In order to be prepared for the upcoming session in Athens, we ask you to do 3 things. Firstly, read through the links below as well as do your own research, in order to be well informed about the issue.

Next, find out how your country views our committee's issue. We recommend you look at the current situation in your respective countries, consider how they were affected by events such as the Russia Ukraine war, and Covid19 crisis, in regards to the topic. We strongly suggest looking at what has already been done, looking at how effective these solutions have been and use all this information to formulate potential problems and solutions.

Lastly, we ask that every delegate writes a position paper that meets these criteria:

1. An overview of the issue
 2. The EU's actions on the matter so far
 3. The actions of the country you are representing
 4. Your personal opinion about what the committee should focus on during the meetings
- Length: 1-1.5 pages max

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- Format: 12 pt Times New Roman, 1.15 spacing, full justification

The deadline for the submission of the position paper is **September 30, 23:59 CET**.

We expect everyone to follow the submission dates, if there are any issues with this please contact us and we can work something out. Again, we expect everyone to be well read about their countries stance and the issue itself, it doesn't make for fun debate if your fellow delegates aren't able to positively contribute.

If there are any questions feel free to contact us over email or whatsapp. We wish you luck!

Your CPs

Some guiding questions to look out for when reading

1. What is authoritarianism and what does it look like?
2. How can Member States counteract the rise of extremism on either side and outside the political spectrum without violating the freedom of free speech and freedom of thought of their citizens?
3. How can the EU ensure the continued democratic values it advocates remain in place throughout its Member States?
4. How can we prevent this from becoming a more long term issue? What actions have to be taken to curtail this backsliding and rise in extremist parties?
5. How are both Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war connected to the rise in authoritarianism?
6. What considerations should be made towards economical challenges in Europe in relation to this issue?

Below are the links, we would recommend reading through them carefully, to find avenues for your own research.

1. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/lastrules/ANN-06_EN.html?redirect

Jurisdiction of the committee. This is a must-read, it's important to know how far our responsibilities go and what falls under our purview.

2. <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/2023/how-the-global-rise-of-authoritarianism-is-misunderstood-and-why-it-matters>

Nice to put things into perspective, we'd recommend skimming through it, so delegates are forced to think a bit more about applicable solutions.

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3. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/european-support-for-authoritarianism-grows-as-citizens-feel-unheard-report-warns/>

Good as a starting article.

4. <https://apnews.com/article/europe-denmark-democracy-a5e80635070431e2315e1d90273ed527>

Good starting article, to give context to what the situation is like right now.

5. <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2021/democracy-under-siege>

Another good one for context, why is this happening? What exactly is happening? A very critical article, but one we feel might help put things into focus for the committee. You don't have to read the entire article, but read the start and "The long arm of Covid-19".

6. <https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/geography-eu-discontent-and-regional-development-rap#:~:text=Twitter-,Political%20discontent%20has%20been%20on%20the%20rise%20across%20Europe..following%20the%202008%20financial%20crisis.>

Good for understanding part of what we have to work against when talking about the rise of authoritarianism.

7. https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/protecting-democracy_en#what-is-the-european-democracy-action-plan

If you want to read about what's happening to prevent the rise. Look at current measures, it is important to understand what this situation needs, so as to be improved in the future. You don't need to read this specific document, but please be well-read on current measures as I feel this is something people often overlook.

8. <https://www.idea.int/democracytracker/sites/default/files/2022-11/the-global-state-of-democracy-2022.pdf>

64-page report on the global state of democracy in 2022 by the International IDEA. Easy to read, reliable source, we recommend reading through it carefully, if not all of it, then at least through 1.1 global patterns, 2.3 Europe and through the entirety of chapter 3 recommendations.

9. <https://icds.ee/en/the-rise-of-new-authoritarianism-in-the-eu/>

This article discusses the rise of competitive authoritarianism in Hungary and Poland, highlighting the erosion of democratic institutions and the EU's response to these developments. It's crucial to understand these trends to grasp the current challenges facing European democracy.

60th INTERNATIONAL MEP ATHENS 202410. <https://www.idea.int/democracytracker/>

Good for more statistical data, not just for Europe but globally. We'd highly recommend using numerical data in your arguments and defence, it's good to have solid numbers backing you up. You'll find the guide for how this data is calculated [here](#).