

**Priority question for written answer P-000353/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Ondřej Knotek (Pfe)

Subject: Does the Commission recognise Member States' sovereignty to hold elections?

On 15 January 2025, Politico quoted an unnamed EU diplomat as allegedly claiming that ‘the EU should consider starting Article 7 proceedings – penalties that can culminate in a country’s exclusion from EU decision-making – against both Hungary and Austria to send a signal to France, where far-right leader Marine Le Pen is eyeing a fourth run for the presidency in 2027’¹.

1. Is this above-mentioned opinion the position of the Commission?
2. Is the Commission able to guarantee that it will not start Article 7 proceedings or take other measures against sovereign EU Member States after they have held national elections?

Submitted: 27.1.2025

¹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/austria-far-right-herbert-kickl-europe-populism/>.