



## Rule of Law in the EU Perceptions of Europeans

★What do Europeans say about the respect of the rule of law in their country?

Europeans say that respect of the rule of law is important and note that improvement is needed in their countries



at least 86% say that the principles<sup>(1)</sup> of the rule of law are important



at least 80% say that the respect of principles<sup>(1)</sup> of the rule of law needs improvement in their country

\* What do Europeans say about the respect of the rule of law in other EU Member States?



of Europeans say that it is important for all EU Member States to respect the core values of the EU including fundamental rights, rule of law and democracy



say that it is important to be able to trust that authorities in other Member States take decisions based on the law



say it is important to be able to access an independent and impartial court in other Member States



say it is important for media and civil society to operate freely and without pressure in other Member States



of Europeans do not feel well informed about EU's fundamental values

Media and civil society are considered key players in ensuring the respect of the rule of law



say it is important that media and journalists can criticise the government without risk of intimidation



say it is important that civil society can operate freely and criticise the government without adverse consequences



for these two aspects, 77% say that improvement is needed in their country

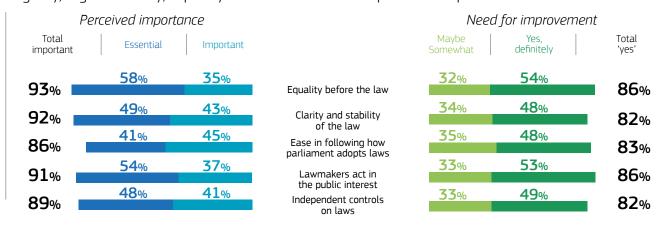


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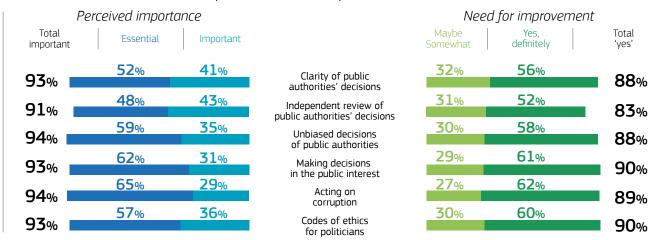
Each principle of the rule of law is seen as important by a vast majority of Europeans

Most Europeans say that respect of the rule of law needs to be improved in their country

Legality, legal certainty, equality before the law and separation of powers -



Prohibition of arbitrariness and penalties for corruption



Effective judicial protection by independent courts

Perceived importance				Need for improvement		
Total important	Essential	Important		Maybe Somewhat	Yes, definitely	Total 'yes'
94%	57%	37%	Access to an independent court  Length or cost of court proceedings  The independence of judges  The proper investigation of crimes  Respect for and application of court rulings  Codes of conduct for politicians	30%	50%	80% 88% 82%
89%	50%	39%		28%	60%	
94%	65%	29%		<b>31</b> %	51%	
94%	64%	30%		31%	55%	86%
94%	60%	34%		<b>32</b> %	51%	83%
86%	44%	42%		34%	47%	81%