



Brussels  
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Ms Cristi Corobana  
[corobana@gmail.com](mailto:corobana@gmail.com)

Dear Ms Corobana,

Thank you for your email of 11 August 2018, addressed to the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker in which you express concern about the behaviour of the Gendarmerie in the context of demonstration held on August 10, 2018. More in particular you indicate that the repression against nonviolent protesters was disproportionate, with tear gas, water cannon and rubber bullets, and left more than 400 people wounded in Bucharest hospitals, including many children and women.

As issues concerning Fundamental Rights fall under the portfolio Věra Jourová Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, I am replying to your letter on her behalf.

Under the Treaties on which the European Union is based, the European Commission has no general powers to intervene with the Member States. It can only do so if an issue of European Union law is involved. Nevertheless, in relation to the events surrounding the protests on 10 August 2018, I would like to assure you that the Commission follows the situations with concern.

Freedom of assembly and freedom of expression are among the essential foundations of democratic societies. It is the responsibility of Member States to maintain law and order during the holding of demonstrations. In doing so, they must ensure that freedom of assembly and freedom of expression are effectively respected and protected in accordance with their national legislation and international obligations.

As regards the justice and criminal law reforms, the Commission, as well as other international partners and Member States, have repeatedly stressed, that the fight against corruption and ensuring an independent, professional judiciary are of paramount importance.

The European Commission monitors developments in Romania in the area of judicial reform and fight against corruption under the Verification and Cooperation Mechanism (CVM) since the country joined the EU in 2007. In its CVM report of 13 November, the Commission notes that while Romania has taken some steps to implement the final 12 recommendations issued by the Commission in January 2017, recent developments have reversed the course of progress and called into question the positive assessment made

back in January 2017. This applies notably to judicial independence, judicial reform and tackling high-level corruption. Therefore, the report also sets out a number of additional recommendations for immediate follow up. You can find more information under the following link:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/progress-report-romania-2018-com-2018-851\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/progress-report-romania-2018-com-2018-851_en)

Yours sincerely

Georgia Georgiadou