

EN

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Answer given by Mr Reynders
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.4.2021)

Democracy is a core value of the EU and promoting free and fair elections in the European Union is a shared responsibility among all governance levels.

The regulation of opinion polls, their number, frequency, organisation in the context of national elections is a matter for national law, and the Commission does not have a general power to intervene in this regard.

It is the competence and the responsibility of the Member States to lay down the specific conditions for the conduct of opinion polls and surveys.

The Commission's European Democracy Action Plan¹ recognises that democracy can only thrive where freedom of information and freedom of expression are both upheld, and announced a programme of further measures to promote free and fair elections and strong democratic participation; support free and independent media; and counter disinformation.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A790%3AFIN&qid=1607079662423>