

## PRESS RELEASE – For immediate release

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The Good Lobby Profs Files Rule of Law Complaint Against Slovakia with European Commission

The Good Lobby Profs has today filed an official complaint with the European Commission under the Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation, urging immediate action in response to sustained and systemic rule of law violations by the Slovak government under Prime Minister Robert Fico.

Since taking office in October 2023, the Fico administration has enacted sweeping legislative and institutional changes that, taken together, amount to a structural dismantling of democratic checks and balances in Slovakia. These reforms have significantly weakened judicial independence, anti-corruption mechanisms, media freedom, civil society autonomy, and the integrity of the legislative process.

Among the most alarming measures are the abolition of the Special Prosecutor's Office, fast-tracked criminal code reforms that threaten whistleblower protections and retroactively shorten corruption-related limitation periods, and direct political interference in the judiciary and public broadcasting. The government has also taken steps to restrict civil society through new "foreign agent" labeling requirements – requiring entities receiving foreign funding or engaging in activities allegedly aligned with a foreign agenda to disclose this information and publicly identify themselves as such – and to exert political control over cultural institutions.

These developments have prompted serious warnings from the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the European Public Prosecutor's Office, all of which have expressed concern that Slovakia's actions pose direct and significant risks to the EU budget and financial interests. The Fico administration's refusal to heed these warnings and its dismissal of external criticism further underscore the systemic nature of the threat.

"What we are witnessing in Slovakia is not a form of isolated reforms, but a deliberate dismantling of democratic institutions under the guise of efficiency. The European Commission must act now to prevent irreversible damage to the rule of law and to protect the Union's financial integrity." — Raphael Oidtmann, The Good Lobby Profs

The Good Lobby Profs calls on the Commission to take robust enforcement action, including the activation of the Conditionality Regulation, the initiation of infringement proceedings, and the launch of Article 7 TEU proceedings.

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