

INFOBRIEF:

Assessment of European Integration Draft Laws



2026

European integration assessment¹ is designed to verify whether a draft law complies with European Union law (the EU acquis). Such an assessment makes it possible to evaluate how far the proposed regulation aligns with the relevant act of EU law and to identify, in good time, provisions that may conflict with EU law and slow down the adaptation of Ukrainian legislation.

The Problem

The obligation to carry out European integration assessment of draft laws is set out in several legal acts of differing legal force, each governing different stages of the legislative process. This approach does not foster a single, unified mechanism for conducting European integration assessment, since its individual elements are regulated in different ways.

Parliamentary assessment is carried out by the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Ukraine's Integration into the European Union (hereinafter, the Committee on European Integration). Current legislation does not oblige other committees to respond to the observations and proposals set out in the Committee's opinions. The absence of any statutory definition of a 'European integration draft law', or of the criteria for one, limits the scope for the relevant committee to carry out European integration assessment.

Assessment of European Integration Draft Laws

The requirement to assess draft laws for compliance with international commitments on European integration and with EU law is established by several legal acts.

Law of Ukraine No. 1629-IV 'On the State Programme for Adaptation of Ukrainian Legislation to the Legislation of the European Union'², adopted in 2004, remains in force. Law No. 1629-IV provides for the mandatory assessment of all draft laws by the parliamentary committee on European integration. The committee is required to determine whether a draft law falls within an area, the legal relations of which are governed by EU law. Draft laws falling within such areas are referred to the authorised central executive authority for the preparation of an expert opinion on their compliance with the EU acquis.

¹ This refers to (1) the assessment of a draft law's compliance with Ukraine's international commitments in the field of European integration and (2) the verification of a draft law's compliance with EU law (the EU acquis).

² On the State Programme for Adaptation of Ukrainian Legislation to the Legislation of the European Union: Law of Ukraine [No. 1629-IV](#) of 18.03.2004.

This Law, however, has not been amended following the enshrinement of the European integration course in the Constitution of Ukraine³ or the granting to Ukraine of EU candidate status. In practice, although the Law remains formally in force, it is not applied.

Instead, the assessment of European integration laws is governed by several other acts. A draft law initiated by the Government undergoes assessment before it is even registered in Parliament. The Rules of Procedure of the Cabinet of Ministers require every draft law to undergo a mandatory assessment of its compliance with Ukraine's European integration commitments and with EU law.⁴

Assessment of European integration laws is provided throughout a draft law's passage through the Verkhovna Rada: from registration to consideration in the second and subsequent readings.

The Rules of Procedure of the Verkhovna Rada provide that, after registration, every draft law must be referred to the Committee on European Integration, which assesses the draft law's compliance with Ukraine's commitments in the field of European integration and issues an expert opinion. The Committee is required to deliver this opinion within 21 days.⁵ In practice, given the volume of draft laws registered in Parliament, meeting this requirement of the Rules of Procedure is unrealistic. Since the start of the ninth convocation, more than 9,000 draft laws have been registered in the Verkhovna Rada.⁶

In July 2022, Parliament adopted Resolution No. 2483-IX 'On Certain Measures to Fulfil Ukraine's Commitments in the Field of European Integration'⁷, which provided for additional assessment of European integration draft laws. When preparing such draft laws for the second and subsequent readings, parliamentary committees are required to refer them to the Committee on European Integration and to the Government for additional assessment.

As a result, the mechanism for European integration assessment of draft laws is established by acts of differing legal force, which undermines the development of a consistent practice in assessing European integration draft laws. Moreover, neither the Rules of Procedure of the Verkhovna Rada nor Resolution No. 2483-IX places main committees any obligation to respond to the observations expressed in the expert opinions of the Committee on European Integration.

³ On Amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine (concerning the State's strategic course towards Ukraine's acquisition of full membership of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation): Law of Ukraine [No. 2680-VIII](#) of 07.02.2019.

⁴ On Approval of the Rules of Procedure of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine: Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine [No. 950](#) of 18.07.2007, clause 51 of § 33.

⁵ On the Rules of Procedure of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine: Law of Ukraine [No. 1861-VI](#) of 10.02.2010, Article 93.

⁶ As at 01.06.2026, 9,145 draft laws had been registered in the Verkhovna Rada.

⁷ On Certain Measures to Fulfil Ukraine's Commitments in the Field of European Integration: Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine [No. 2483-IX](#) of 29.07.2022.

At the same time, legislation contains no definition of what constitutes a European integration draft law, which somewhat diminishes the role of such assessment. A draft law may be designated as a European integration draft law at different stages of its passage through the Verkhovna Rada (at registration or after its adoption in the first reading), creating a risk that the relevant committee or the Government may become involved and deliver its opinion only at a late stage.⁸ Where a draft law is revised after it has been designated as a European integration draft law, bringing it into line with EU law may require additional time.

For a long time, draft laws were designated as 'European integration' by the Committee on European Integration, acting at the request of the Government or the main committee, or on its own initiative. In June 2026, Members of Parliament adopted Resolution No. 4912-IX 'On Parliamentary Support for the Negotiation Process on Ukraine's Accession to Membership of the European Union'⁹, which provides that the special 'European integration' marker is assigned by the Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to draft laws submitted by the Government to implement the National Programme for the Adaptation of Ukrainian Legislation to the Law of the European Union¹⁰. Other draft laws may acquire 'European integration' status on the basis of an opinion of the Committee on European Integration.

Whether or not a draft law has been designated as a European integration draft law determines the extent of the Committee on European Integration's involvement. If a draft law prepared for the second reading is, in substance, contrary to EU law but has not been designated as a European integration draft law, the Committee on European Integration has no right to deliver its opinion.

Recommendations

To strengthen the role of European integration assessment in the consideration and adoption of draft laws in the Verkhovna Rada, the following steps are needed:

- › Unify the European integration assessment process across all stages of a draft law's consideration in Parliament, preferably by introducing a dedicated procedure for the adoption of European integration draft laws.

⁸ For example, the Committee revised its opinion on [Draft Law No. 13071](#) — determining that the draft law was aimed at implementing a measure under the Roadmap on the Functioning of Democratic Institutions — only after the draft law had been adopted in the first reading and after the comparative table for the second reading had been submitted. The Committee on European Integration had not provided an opinion before the first reading. Draft law card, registration No. 13071 of 11.03.2025.

⁹ On Parliamentary Support for the Negotiation Process on Ukraine's Accession to Membership of the European Union: Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine [No. 4912-IX](#) of 11.06.2026.

¹⁰ National Programme for the Adaptation of Ukrainian Legislation to the Law of the European Union (EU acquis): Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine [No. 438](#) of 01.04.2026.

- › Define the concept of, and the requirements for, a 'European integration draft law'. This would help to resolve the uncertainty surrounding which draft laws are subject to European integration assessment.
- › Expand the powers of the Committee on European Integration to conduct assessment at all stages of the legislative process. Assessing every draft law prepared for the second and subsequent readings would be impractical given the Committee's heavy workload. Instead, the Committee could be granted the right to conduct European integration assessment of draft laws (that have not been designated as European integration draft laws) on its own initiative or at the request of the main committee. Other committees should develop a mechanism for responding to the opinions of the Committee on European Integration — for example, by considering such opinions at committee meetings.