



06.03.2023

MISSION REPORT

following the ad-hoc delegation to Budapest, Hungary, 2-4 November 2022

Committee on Culture and Education

Members of the mission:

Ms Sabine VERHEYEN	EPP, Chair of the CULT Committee
Ms Michaela ŠOJDROVÁ	EPP
Mr Andrey SLABAKOV	ECR
Ms Petra KAMMEREVERT	S&D
Ms Ilana CICUREL	Renew
Mr Marcos ROS SEMPERE	S&D
Ms Irena JOVEVA	Renew

Accompanying Members ('out of quota' Members)

Ms Andrea BOCSKOR	NI
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Introduction

The CULT Committee of the European Parliament had decided to organise a mission to Budapest, Hungary back in 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mission had to be postponed. Finally, in 2022, the mission was re-scheduled and reintegrated in the Committee's regular annual planning for missions.

The Bureau officially approved the mission on 6 June 2022.

Based on the CULT Committee's competences in the field of education, culture, youth and media policies, the mission to Budapest had as objectives to discuss recent developments and various aspects of education, cultural and media policies in Hungary, amongst others, with a view to evaluating to what extent European citizenship and democracy might be strengthened through education and culture.

The CULT Committee's mission to Hungary was prepared and actually took place in a politically sensitive context as the country is subject to serious concerns over respect of democracy and fundamental rights as outlined in the European Parliament's resolution on Hungary adopted on 15 September 2022¹. Some of the main areas underlined in the resolution are the functioning of Hungary's constitutional and electoral system, the independence of the judiciary, corruption and conflicts of interest and freedom of expression, including media pluralism. Academic freedom, freedom of religion, freedom of association, the right to equal treatment, including LGBTIQ rights, the rights of minorities, as well as those of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, are also highlighted as problematic in the resolution.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0324_EN.html

Summary account of meetings

BUDAPEST

Wednesday, 2 November 2022

14:00 – 15:30 Meeting with Ms Anett Bósz, Deputy Mayor of Budapest

During the meeting with the deputy mayor of Budapest, the following issues were raised by Ms Bósz:

- The central role the city of Budapest plays on the country's cultural scene was underlined, but also its importance in the field of education. In particular, the city played a key role in accommodating the Ukrainian refugees' wave.
- The City Hall, represented by the opposition Liberal Party, does not attract a lot of media attention and media coverage from independent media outlets is very low. Coverage from media outlets close to the new management structures (ex: KESMA) are deemed to be always critical or negative.
- In a 10-years trend of systematic centralisation of the education sector, local competences have been lost. Concerns have been expressed over the loss of independence of the education actors at local level. Before the recent centralisation reforms, subsidiarity and good cooperation have been the prevailing working methods between the government and the local authorities in the field of education.
- There is currently a lack of real partnership between central and local levels: special economic zones were set up, which lead to local tax revenues to be taken away and channelled at central level.
- The government took a decision to centralise school curricula and thus impose the same approach to teaching and content, also through the control and centralisation of the market for schoolbooks. No alternative curricula are available to teachers today. There is no flexibility for the teachers whose only alternative is to freely exercise their profession behind "*closed doors and windows*".
- A real academic freedom and freedom of expression should be offering a more ample and secure space for uttering different opinions and exposing arguments. The long-standing centralisation process including the imposition of centralised curricula has deprived the education system from its capacity to offer students a diversity of viewpoints and the possibility to freely formulate opinions.
- Local governments are underfunded and therefore cannot perform their competences freely and meaningfully. This is in particular true for the local structures led by the opposition. Against this backdrop, there is a serious risk for local governance to be ineffective or controlled.

16:00 – 17:00 Visit of the Hungarian National Assembly and meeting with Dr. László Pószán, Chairman of the Committee on Culture

- The Committee on Culture at the Hungarian National Assembly is dominated by the ruling Fidesz party as the National Assembly as a whole. The Committee Chair, Dr. László Pószán and Vice-Chair Mr Sandor Bodo are both Fidesz party members. The only opposition Vice-Chair present was Mr. István Szabadi - a representative of the “Our Homeland” movement – which is positioned to the right of the ruling Fidesz party.
- Recent reforms of the higher-education sector and the cultural sector have been mentioned by Dr. László Pószán. In this context, he underlined that after the centralisation process, Hungarian universities achieved better results in international rankings. He also pointed out that under the current government, since 2010 the country has progressively taken a course towards preserving its culture, cultural heritage and sites, through heavy investments in key cultural projects such as the Liget project², the renovation of the Opera House.
- In 2019, the Prime Minister announced a focus on the cultural transformation of the country. This was followed by the Acts on the National Council for Culture and the Institutions of Cultural Strategy, as well as on the Foundation for Hungarian Culture, which brought about a new hierarchy of decision-making and of institutions.
- General legislation on culture in Hungary comprises of following laws:
 - o Act CXL/1997 referred to as the Law on Culture; the Act regulates three sub-sectors: libraries, museums and local socio-cultural activities
 - o Act LXIV/2001 on the Protection of Cultural Heritage
 - o Act on the Hungarian Academy of Arts (MMA), as a part of the new constitution (The Fundamental Law of Hungary, voted in 2011, in effect since 1 January 2012)
 - o 2019 Acts on the National Council for Culture and the Institutions of Cultural Strategy and on the Foundation for Hungarian Culture.
- A list of important infrastructure projects supporting Hungary's cultural and architectural heritage with unprecedented investments was mentioned by the Hungarian interlocutors. Various projects on cultural venues and cultural institutions have been mentioned with a budget of 650 billion HUF already invested and 1000 billion HUF still to go (about 2 billion EUR).
- According to Dr. László Pószán, artists are free to express themselves. He mentioned the example of two Oscar winning film directors who are officially opposing the government.
- The centralisation trends in the cultural and education sectors were confirmed. However, a number of benefits of this trend were pointed out: autonomy of Universities; financial stability; affordability of studies; international competitiveness, etc.
- Dr. Pószán and his colleagues mentioned that European values were unclear and should be defined. The ruling's party firm wish to defend and praise Christian values was

² <https://ligetbudapest.hu/en/liget-budapest-project>

confirmed. It was also underlined that “gender” studies should be kept away from schools and children, which are not in an appropriate age.

- Furthermore, the CULT delegation members were invited by the Hungarian side to receive information from more sources and the delegation’s information was judged as being biased.
- In the subsequent discussion, the data and figures mentioned by Dr. Pószán and his colleagues during the meeting were strongly questioned by several Members. The same goes for the Hungarian view on the freedom of expression. CULT Members underlined that cultural policy needs to support the whole bandwidth of cultural expression and not only those being in line with the official government position. The Hungarian cooperation with China in the field of education was also discussed and criticised as worrying. Further critical remarks revolved around LGBT+ rights, the Hungarian position on the European Education Area as well as on citizenship education. Replying to the remark on the allegedly “unclear nature of European values”, the CULT Chair recommended the Hungarian interlocutors to look at Article 2 of the TEU where these values are clearly laid down.
- The meeting was followed by a guided tour through the Hungarian Parliament.

18:00 - 19:00 Meeting with Andrea Vigh, President of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music and representatives of the Academy

- The CULT delegation members visited the building and the main concert hall of the Academy of Music, which has been restored with a grant of over 13 billion HUF (90% financed by the EU).
- The CULT delegation was welcomed by the hosts with a special and very impressive piano performance by one of the students of the Academy. The president, the rector and the vice-rector gave a general presentation of the history and functioning of the Academy.
- The Liszt Academy has very solid foundations and was founded by Franz Liszt himself who, together with Bela Bartok, were professors at the academy. Today the Academy employs modern tools and methodologies for education and is a worldwide reference with a share of more than 25% of foreign students.
- On the pedagogical side, the Academy has been awarded the European Heritage Label and won the Europa Nostra prize for the renovation of its building. The Academy is also part of a vast international network and has a dense network of partner institutions with more than 100 bilateral agreements in the EU and beyond. The Erasmus+ programme helps the Academy a lot in view of the international mobility of its students (18-20% of the students benefit from an Erasmus+ mobility). Beyond mobility, the Academy also benefits from financial support from the Erasmus+ programme to fund short-term workshops which are considered excellent and flexible tools for art courses.
- Responding to questions on the openness and inclusiveness of the education methods at the Academy, its representatives emphasised that Franz Liszt was a true European, living in many European countries and creating a true European musical heritage. The Academy hosts 10 students from Ukraine. Today the Academy has contacts with all leading institutions worldwide (ex: All German Länder) and receives inspirations from all different music styles. However, the Vice-Rector insisted on the importance of teaching music knowledge and tradition as a solid base, on which students can rely for

their future orientations. The Academy actively applies the Kodály method, which is an approach to music education rooted in the idea that music should be a social and cultural experience.

- Asked on their academic independence, the Vice-Rector replied that the Academy has always been a reference institution and that music is indifferent to political changes. In that sense, he underlined that the Academy teaches Mozart the same way than 50 years ago and certainly will do it in the same way in 50 years.
- On inclusiveness, the Rector underlined that the Academy provides support for students from disadvantaged backgrounds also financially. Many students at the Academy have a Roma background. The Rector concluded by underlining that the state provides support to this institution and that it provides equal opportunity for all through music.

Thursday, 3 November 2022

09:00 - 11:00 Meeting with representatives of the media sector in Hungary:

The second day of the mission to Budapest began with a meeting with representatives of the independent media sector in Hungary, characterised by financial and editorial independence and lack of apparent affiliation to structures with vested interest.

- During this exchange with journalists and media specialists, it has become clear that the very few independent and/or critical media outlets left in the country are subject to economic and regulatory discrimination, with a shrinking public space and revenue sources for their operations, as clearly indicated by the European Parliament's resolution of 15 September 2022 on the "Existence of a clear risk of a serious breach by Hungary of the values on which the Union is founded"³.
- The CULT's interlocutors underlined that independent media are systematically branded as "opposition" media from the ruling majority or from other media outlets close to the government.
- They expressed their strong concern over the state of pluralism in the media landscape in Hungary. The expressed opinions were that the state "owns" the media with more than 500 media outlets (about 90% of media in Hungary) concentrated in one foundation – the KESMA (Közép-Európai Sajtó és Média Alapítvány - Central European Press and Media Foundation) media conglomerate, Members believe that more should be done to ensure media pluralism and that rules related to anti-competitive behaviour should consider the market-distorting effects of KESMA and other dominant government-aligned media owners⁴. This is perceived as one of the striking examples of the governing Fidesz party's attempts to bolster media influence.

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0324_EN.html

⁴ The KESMA case has not been ruled as non-compliant with EU competition law as Hungarian national regulatory bodies and courts have authorised the conglomerate. However, many analysis point out to the problematic character of the KESMA conglomerate because of excessive concentration of media outlets and advertisement revenue distribution – "The KESMA Report – Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom – April, 2019 - https://cmpf.eui.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Report_KESMA_Hungary_A2.pdf;

"Monitoring media pluralism in the digital era country report – Hungary 2021"; Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom; June 2022 - <https://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/74692/MPM2022-Hungary-EN.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

- Members were introduced to one specific outlet under the KESMA media conglomerate - V4 News Agency. The Agency has nothing to do with the Visegrad Group except its name and it is merely exploiting the V4 alliance in the attempt to support the governing Fidesz party. The content, which is available only in Hungarian, English and French, is solely focusing on sensitive issues such as migration and sanctions and systematically points out to the '*dictatorship from Brussels*'.
- The speakers underlined a strong inequity in distribution of funding with media close to power receiving considerable amounts of funding, whereas independent media are systematically “dried out”. Huge amounts from advertising are channelled into the “friendly” media which is heavily over-financed compared to competitors. In addition, there is no transparency as regards distribution of funding. Limiting the access to financial resources leads to a loss of independence and eventually to takeover. This is known as “media capture”. One noteworthy example is considered the takeover of the Hungarian news portal INDEX. The very few independent outlets have to rely on donations and subscriptions for income. The situation with regional media is even worse. In particular in the case of media outlets belonging to foreign groups. They become economically deficient. In a second step, an offer is made for acquisition. In a third step, the foreign shareholders agree to sell the media, which has lost its economic rentability.
- Journalists pointed out that since 2010, when the current ruling party seized power, there is a constant contradictory attitude both in terms of the regulatory environment and in terms of concentration vis-a-vis the EU media and competition law. According to journalists, there is a systematic effort to silence independent or opposition media through limiting the licences for use of frequencies, through pressure for acquisition of outlets combined with a powerful propaganda.
- It was also strongly underlined that investigative independent journalists are in a difficult situation. Access to public information and the public sphere is strongly restricted (e.g., major Hungarian politicians are rarely giving interviews to independent media outlets). Government officials and politicians can hardly be critically scrutinized on any aspect of public life as the press considered as “unfriendly” is simply not being invited in press conferences or is not getting question time.
- Strong concerns were also raised over the use of Pegasus spyware⁵ on phones, including of journalists who were investigating into cases of corruption. The fact that journalists were targeted can be considered as an intimidation, a real threat to independent journalism and as an attempt on democracy by obstructing the access to diverse sources of information for citizens.
- Journalists expressed their scepticism about the eventual positive effects of the future European Media Freedom Act on the situation in Hungary. Their analysis is that the text

⁵ The case of use of Pegasus spyware in Hungary has been clearly documented in the draft report on the Investigation of alleged contraventions and maladministration in the application of Union law in relation to the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (2022/2077(INI)) (Committee of Inquiry to investigate the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware) - https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/PEGA/PR/2022/11-29/1267241EN.pdf; (see pages 9 - 13)

is designed for structures operating within systems that already guarantee certain freedoms and pluralism. The suggested way forward is through the use of European state aid/ competition law in order to act on the funding available to independent media.

- The conclusion was that media capturing and lack of pluralism in Hungary is unique as it combines regulatory and legal measures with economic and political pressure on the very few independent media outlets that are remaining. According to the invited journalists and media specialists, the right tools to use in order to tackle this problem are:
 - o The use of EU competition law to break horizontal and vertical concentration over media landscape;
 - o Political pressure on the European Commission to further analyse the practical case of Hungary and propose adequate sanctions to the Council;
 - o Direct operational support to independent media outlets from European programmes and funds;
 - o Development of European public service media operating across the borders.

12:30 - 14:30 Meeting with representatives of academia, cultural and solidarity sectors in Hungary:

In the early afternoon, the delegation had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the cultural, creative and solidarity sectors to discuss recent developments in their respective fields.

During the meeting, the following points were raised by the interlocutors:

- Roma make up the biggest minority in the EU, having a very disregarded and generally negative public image and having no structured and systematic institutional support. Cultural institutions as the Roma Culture Institute are considered to not deliver up to the challenges. Roma children in education are suffering from a number of structural difficulties and disadvantages as regards their peers (such as lack of teachers, inadequate school infrastructures and segregated schools). The importance of NGO work in supporting Roma children to enable them acquiring skills and achieving social integration was underlined.
- The speakers emphasized the need to secure stable and predictable access to funding for independent performing artists. Visibility and proper planning are currently impossible, as not much information on funding is available in advance and available funds have been cut over the years. At the time of the visit, there was no predictability for available funding for 2023 and serious concerns were raised, considering the current economic situation and inflation. The overall assessment is that resources are scarce, criteria for allocation of funding is unclear, not transparent and often not available for independent artists and organisations, in particular those dealing with educational projects. Overall, the sector is on “survival” mode according to the assessment of the speakers.
- Performing artists underlined the importance of fostering creative minds through a cross-sectorial approach and stressed that they would like to have more access to EU direct funding through programmes such as Creative Europe which is considered more predictable and reliable. Many small organisations rely on donations and donors, but this is not stable and insufficient.

- The difference in the roles of independent and commercial theatres was also explained, stressing the former's role in experimenting and researching new theatre styles and topics in a non-commercial approach often with a wider societal impact (education; social integration etc.). Examples were given of the impossibility of getting state financing as soon as associations/theatre productions are seen as critical.
- To illustrate the situation of academic freedom in the country, the interlocutors underlined that there is no separate ministry for education in Hungary. Furthermore, the higher and public education sectors are completely controlled by the government. The Hungarian higher education landscape is characterised by being divided between recently privatised, so-called Foundation Universities (run by Boards), Church Universities and State Universities (with only 5 remaining). The most recent step affecting academic freedom in Hungary is the legislation adopted in April 2021 to restructure the administration and management of 11 previous state universities and put them under the control of foundations, together with cultural institutions and other state assets. In view of the interlocutors, the governing bodies of these private foundations (boards) are systematically composed of personalities close to the ruling party, hereby putting universities under tight control.
- It was outlined that the reform of the management structures of universities is not a pure privatisation. The newly established foundations managing the universities cannot sell university assets if not to the benefit of the universities. In fact, it was pointed out by the speakers that the new governance structure does not differ fundamentally from the the Finish or the US structure and their endowment and trustees system. However, speakers pointed out that behind the claimed objective of rationalising the administration in order to improve the attractiveness and performances of Hungary's higher education, a sophisticated control system has been put in place. In addition, it was underlined that a closer relationship with the business world is being sought, including a differentiating of financing sources.
- It was recalled that the case of the model change at the University of Theatre and Film Arts Budapest (SZFE) clearly illustrates the concerns of the speakers. In fact, in September 2020 the governance structure of the public University of Theatre and Film Arts Budapest, against the will of the University concerned, was transformed from a State Theatre University into a Foundation University imposing a board of 5 trustees . In a form of protest, University Professors and staff resigned and set up an independent association providing students the possibility to complete their studies thanks to a 'rescue diploma'. Members of the Free SZFE Foundation explained that there was a tremendous pressure and discrimination experienced by students and teachers in terms of grants accessibility, work contracts, etc.

15:30 - 16:30 Meeting with the National Media and Infocommunication Authority (NMIA) and discussion with its president, Dr. András Koltay

In the afternoon, members of the delegation could meet with the President of Hungary's highest instance in media policy – the NMIA. Since 2010, the National Media and Infocommunication Authority is the key institution in charge of the regulation and supervision of public and private media. The Media Council, a five-member body within the Media Authority appointed for renewable nine-year terms, monitors and enforces the media policy legislation. According to the 2010 Act on Media, the president of the Media Authority becomes the ipso iure candidate for the chairperson of the Media Council. Subject to a two-thirds majority vote of MPs present,

the Council's President and its four Members are elected by the General Assembly for a term of nine years.

The cumulative mandates of Mr Koltay as president of NMIA and chairperson of the Media Council has raised serious concerns at EU level as outlined in the EP's resolution of 15 September 2022.

- During the discussion, Mr Koltay expressed his opinion on the lack of definition of media pluralism. He expressed his believe that this is a complex issue linked to cultural and historical aspects. Mr Koltay presented the Hungarian media landscape as diverse, with a colourful media market including printed and online news, radio, TV, streaming, etc. Mr Koltay also insisted on the importance to focus the discussions on facts and avoid emotional comments. To this end, the media authority publishes a yearly media market report. According to Mr Koltay, the authority's preliminary findings show that there is a lively and strong competition, a colourful offer, and that the largest part of Hungarians have access to several media outlets, including online and social media. He recalled that in his view, media was traditionally never considered independent or neutral, but always politically oriented. He stressed the importance of understanding media pluralism in its local context and added that legislation cannot change that. He then described the limited toolbox in the hands of the Media Authority: radio frequencies; online outlets; complaint-based analysis, no own initiative opinions; sanctions but no fines. He welcomed the COM proposal for a European Media Freedom Act claiming the Hungarian Media Authority already complies with provisions therein.
- During the discussions, Mr Koltay expressed his reservations concerning the comments on the state of Hungary's democracy. He acknowledged that he was not familiar with the Council of Europe Media Pluralism Monitor and questioned the methodology leading to Hungary's low ranking (85th position). Mr Koltay clarified that the Hungarian Parliament elects the Council Members of the Media Authority.

17:00 - 18:00 Visit of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and meeting with Tamás Freund, President of the Academy

Members of the delegation were welcomed at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences for a meeting with its President, Mr Tamás Freund who presented the Academy of Sciences. During the meeting, the following issues were raised by Mr Freund:

- The Academy of Sciences is ranked as the country's most trusted institution. The importance of scientific methodology (also in identifying and fighting fake news) was underlined. The Academy is directly accountable to Parliament and reports to the Government. Its independence is guaranteed by the Constitution.
- The role of the Academy is to give policy advice and represent science, but also to provide quality control over academic life and organise science communication.
- According to the President of the Academy, there is no direct control from the executive over the Academy of Sciences, the supreme governing body of which – the Governing board – is composed of 12 members (6 nominated by the president of the Academy and 6 named by the minister responsible for science).
- The scientific advice given by the Academy is not binding. Ad hoc expert committees can also be set-up and formulate recommendations to the Parliament and the

government. However, the executive can take initiatives not supported by scientific evidence.

- The Hungarian Academy of Sciences has received massive additional funding to support ongoing activities and new strategic research programmes (+53% as of 2022). The Academy also relies on a vast network of international partnerships being member of over 60 international scientific organisations and founding member of the World Science Forum.
- With regards to the reform of the higher-education system, the President admitted concerns over industrial or economic interest reducing the support for basic scientific research. However, according to him, so far, this has not been the case. He concluded that it is still too early to gauge the impact of the reform.

18:30 - 19:30 Visit of the Central European University and meeting with representatives of the leadership

During the meeting, the following elements were raised by the representatives of the CEU:

- The seat of the CEU moved from Budapest to Vienna because of the legal uncertainties created by the Hungarian government. The 2017 legal reform precluded the university from maintaining its dual Hungarian and American legal identity, requiring it to choose a single form of accreditation, setting up a campus in the US, and vesting its governance in an international treaty. As a result, the CEU campus was relocated from Budapest to Vienna. The legislation became known as the “Lex CEU.” In its 2020 judgement, the European Court of Justice stated that the new conditions introduced by Hungary are incompatible with EU law, following an action by the EU Commission for violation of the GATS and the freedom of establishment, the free movement of services and the provisions of the Charter relating to academic freedom, the freedom to found higher education institutions and the freedom to conduct a business. The situation remains unchanged.
- The government obliged international universities to sign agreements with the government; the CEU had prepared everything (including establishing a functioning basis in the US), but the government did not find time to sign the agreements and, in view of the CEU, it is difficult to challenge government inaction in court.
- Currently, the building in Budapest is still dedicated to research yet only with a few remaining PhDs continuing on site who are specialising on democracy. However, this is only a “phasing-out” activity as no new PhD students are enrolling. The situation is complex as the teaching staff and Professors commute between the two campuses and that the Budapest campus is also used to carry out outreach activities (such as public lectures) in order to continue contributing to the Hungarian intellectual life.
- The CEU has a strong international outreach and participates in Erasmus + and a number of Horizon Europe projects. The CEU plays the role of the coordinator in a large-scale collaborative Horizon Europe project together with the University of Oxford, Sciences Po, Charles University, Scuola Normale Superiore. The 3 million Euro grant contains several empirical and theoretical projects mapping the varieties of illiberal challenges

across Europe, including the cases of Poland and Hungary⁶. The CEU is also leading partner in a number of research networks.

- The CEU sees itself as a sanctuary for academic freedom in a shrinking spaces for free thought. This is why the university offers online programmes, summer programmes and advanced studies, including on gender studies and academic freedom.

20:00 - 21:00 Meeting with Tibor Navracsics, Minister for Regional Development, Chief Representative of the Veszprem European Capital of Culture 2023 initiative

In this meeting, Minister Navracsics (and former EU Commissioner for Culture and Education) addressed the following issues:

- He presented the concept of the Veszprem ECOC 2023 Initiative. The launching day was the 21 January. The final concept revolves over three horizontal values – volunteering, sustainability and transparency. Fostering strong connections between the local and EU levels and developing a new economic ecosystem are key elements of this concept. The ECOC model will be used in the wider cultural sector to develop cultural and regional development policies organically connected and grounded in both Hungarian and EU values.
- Minister Navracsics presented an overview of the education reforms in Hungary. He underlined that in 2010, the biggest problem in Hungary was access to quality education (especially for Roma children and other marginalised groups). Reforms in the sector have been trying to address this challenge but have not always yielded good results in terms of availability/accessibility or of better results/achievements. The minister showed an understanding of the teachers’ requests for higher salaries. He also mentioned that the reason why Hungary is asking for frontloading co-financing in RRF national operational programme is to be able to raise teachers’ salaries (objective – 80% of average intellectual salary by 2026). Minister Navracsics also pointed out that the national budget will progressively assume large proportion of the salary increase. By 2025, the government will have spent HUF 1.2 trillion on teachers' wage hikes, financed equally from national and EU funds.
- As regards Universities, he presented the three types of Universities existing in Hungary (State-run; Public services established for specific government needs; and Reformed Universities run by a Board of Trustees) saying that there are no great obstacles in terms of content.
- On media freedom, Minister Navracsics agreed that there is a great imbalance in terms of funding, which exposes media outlets to lobbying. He nonetheless argued that there is no huge problem in terms of freedom since, in his view, the most popular online media outlets are also the most critical of the government.
- Mr Navracsics underlined that Hungary is using cohesion and other EU funds to facilitate the digital transition. Regarding EU-citizenship education, he suggested the creation of a ‘Friends of EU Citizenship Education Group’ with a clear division between EU and MS tasks therein. Confronted with strong criticism regarding the current government campaign against the EU (on EU sanctions against Russia), he argued that

⁶ <https://democracyinstitute.ceu.edu/articles/di-coordinates-new-horizon-europe-grant-project>

this campaign was merely an explanation since there was a decision in April to leave gas out of the remit of the sanctions, now that this decision has not been kept, the consequence is a gas price multiplied by 15 for public institutions and by 6 for private households. He admitted, the poster might be an over simplification as a simple message can be misleading, yet defending the general message of this campaign.



The poster with the text “Brussels sanctions are ruining us” was broadly displayed in the streets of Budapest and surroundings during the delegation’s visit.

Friday, 4 November

09:00 - 10:00 Meeting with János CSÁK, Minister for Culture and Innovation: higher education, innovation and cultural affairs

On the last day of the delegation visit, Members met with Minister Janos Csák, who is heading a super-ministry with 6 priority areas: family; innovation; enterprise; vocational training; higher education and science.

- During the meeting, Minister Csák gave a presentation of his objectives as *Minister of the Future*, as he called himself given that the results of his policies will be visible only down the line. He stressed the need to build a strong middle class and therefore cited procreation and family as his number one priority. Through the presentation, it became clear that one of the underlying objectives of the ministry’s policies is to encourage women to have children at a younger age (and therefore increasing the chances of having more children). Hence, the need to develop a strong ECEC (early childhood education and care) system, to enable young mothers to reintegrate into the labour market and be able to acquire skills and competences. He also mentioned the importance of passing on Hungary’s Christian cultural heritage to the younger generations to reinforce local identities.
- According to Minister Csák, there are about 40000 foreign students in the higher education (out of 260 000). The importance of dual-education and vocational training based on the German example was also mentioned. The ministry’s objective is to valorise vocational training. Commenting on the higher education reform and the introduction of endowments and foundations, the minister said that this is done with one single objective – better results.

- Minister Csák underlined that one of the priorities is to limit the brain drain and increase the domestic retention of intellectual property (owned by Hungarian entities) with high added value (innovations).
- Culture has been depicted as a “way of life”. The Minister described an interdependent policy cycle where culture and family are in the centre with higher education and vocational training leading to higher levels of innovation. This leads to a dynamic business sector generating domestic added value, which can contribute to higher quality of social and public policies.
- The minister stressed the importance of setting positive agendas. He stressed that there is a lot of foreign investment in Hungary and that it is important to promote local economic growth. Culturally speaking, he considers a strong sense of belonging essential and only then an openness to the EU and the world. The Minister underlined that only when one knows her/himself one can exchange ideas, question certainties and stimulate a debate.

10.30 - 11.00 Meeting with representatives of the Hungarian Rectors' Conference

The following issues emerged during the discussion:

- Hungary’s Rectors’ Conference has a 30-year long history and is composed of 63 members from the entire higher-education system.
- The five representatives of the Rectors’ Conference underlined that universities did not suffer any pressure to change their status. Before there were 63 state owned universities, now there are only 5 left. The rectors explained the structure of Universities and underlined that the change in structure and statute of Universities was carried out on a voluntary basis and that this transformation has had no impact on academic freedom.
- Rectors explained that state ownership and management had been generally burdensome with huge problems in terms of efficiency. Most rectors have become CEOs of their universities and were responsible to develop new visions and missions for development. The boards are responsible to evaluate the missions proposed by the CEOs. Universities also have their senates who nominate the CEO (rector), which is then elected by the Senate and the Board. The senates are composed of 25% of students. The Board of Trustees is evaluating and steering the CEOs mission.
- Rectors supported the transformation of higher education arguing that through the establishment of Boards and consequent less links with the Ministry, a lot of the bureaucracy has disappeared enabling faster and smoother change/modernisation to react dynamically to societal and economic changes. They described the three different types of Boards existing: Mission Boards, Transformative and Operative Boards, stressing that for each the Rector has a more or less active influence on the academic life (strategy, curriculum, budget).
- According to the Rectors, the Board does not interfere with the curricula or in any other way with the academic content and offer, and the sole objective of this rational management is to obtain results – academic and economic and to reduce the “brain drain”.

11.00 – 12.30 Meeting with organisations working with refugees: Focus on young people and children in an age of education

As their last meeting on the agenda for this mission, CULT Members met with representatives of organisations working with refugees. The following topics were raised:

- Since the beginning of the Russian Aggression against Ukraine, 3,6 million total crossings to Hungary were registered directly from Ukraine or via neighbouring countries. The majority are children and women (69%)⁷. The figure of crossings at the external EU border is the only reliable figure. Because of the fact that the temporary protection mechanism was activated immediately, the challenges which countries usually face further down the line, such as effective access to accommodation, labour and education, have been streamlined.
- According to the organisations, some 16 000 children passed the border requesting refugee status in Hungary.
- Of these, 4000 are enrolled in institutions. However, the overall assessment was that there is a general lack of data on integration in the national education system. It is highly probable that more than 1/3 of children and young people in education age are actually not receiving appropriate education. There is currently a strong challenge in terms of infrastructure, language support and special educational needs. According to the UNHCR figures, 32, 850 have applied for Temporary Protection Status.⁸
- The importance of knowing each individual family's intention to activate integration measures has been underlined. This has an important impact on the support efforts for the refugees – if they would like to stay in Hungary, they will need to learn the language for instance; if they are only passing through, the priority would be different. The interlocutors explained that often pupils are placed in a class under their actual level and follow online courses in Ukrainian in parallel.
- Around 100 000 Roma have fled Ukraine and Roma children among them have special educational needs as they were already behind in Ukraine. The work of NGOs and in particular Roma-led organisations is essential. They are flexible, available and can show a great adaptation capacity. Some have been capable of setting pop-up schools and even trained Ukrainians to become teachers.
- The organisations' representatives lauded the initial reaction of the Hungarian government and the generosity of the population in donating and welcoming Ukrainians and all those fleeing the war. They provided information regarding pop-up schools with Ukrainian volunteers and confirmed that there is a lack of systematic registration of teachers, but that associations are working to promote recognition of qualifications. The main lesson learned according to them is that the temporary protection mechanism works much better than the actual European Asylum System.

⁷ Ukraine Refugee Situation Operational Updates; UNHCR; December 2022-
file:///C:/localdata/smanev/Downloads/UNHCR%20Hungary%20-%20Operational%20Update%20(September%20-%20December%202022)%20(1).pdf

⁸ *Ibid.*

13:00 - 13:30 Press conference by the Head of Delegation and CULT Chair, Ms VERHEYEN

The official programme of the delegation ended with a press conference at the EP's Liaison office in Budapest. The press conference was well attended by a number of journalists from the digital, audio-visual and print media (see detailed press release).

General conclusions:

As a follow-up of this mission, the Members of the delegation reached the following conclusions:

- Although most of the exchanges were constructive and Members were well received, some of the meetings left a sense of uneasiness. The general perception of the Delegation was that the representatives of the ruling party as well as those interlocutors representing Hungarian state organisations and institutions all tried to bring evidence of normality, social and economic prosperity as well as on the lack of political tensions and strong adherence of the Hungarian society to the leading party's ideological line.
- It needs to be underlined that the Members of the CULT Delegation represent a wide range of political party affiliations and come from a wide range of Members States as well. The programme of this visit had been submitted, discussed and endorsed by the CULT Committee coordinators.
- After the mission, the large majority of the Members of the delegation still have serious concerns about the state of media freedom and pluralism, academic freedom, the rule of law and fundamental rights in Hungary.

Media freedom and pluralism

- Members of the delegation are firmly convinced that the Hungarian government is deliberately dividing the media outlets into "government media" and "opposition media", justifying this division as determined by the country's historical development. It is the opinion of the Members of this delegation that this dichotomy is intended to bring an oversimplified image of the media landscape in Hungary where two "equally interested" media "blocks" are operating in an open public space. By contrast, the Members of this delegation do not believe in the artificial dichotomy of pro-government media and pro-opposition media but in the need for a free and independent media landscape. Free and independent media are indicators of a functioning democracy. Just because the media criticize government work does not make them media of the opposition.
- Independent media must criticize – both the work of the government and the work of the opposition. They are also allowed to praise – both the work of the government and the work of the opposition.
- That is the CULT Committee's understanding of media freedom and media independence and this must also be secured by appropriate framework conditions. These framework conditions are both economic and structural in nature. The media have a watchdog function. The portrayal of independent media as opposition media is detrimental to that, and democrats can have no interest in that.

- All independent media companies should receive full recognition. In addition, these independent media outlets should be supported by all means and in particular through EU funding and networks.
- Regarding media freedom, serious concerns persist. The country's regulatory framework is questionable. All five members of the Media Council are selected by the current *Fidesz* majority in the Hungarian Parliament, which is the reason why the Media Council's independence can be questioned. In addition, the cumulative mandates of the Media Authority president holding simultaneously the position of the Media Council chairperson and the Media Authority's silence on the KESMA Foundation concentration case further strengthen these claims.
- Furthermore, Members of the delegation are concerned about the converging claim by a variety of sources that independent media outlets have been liquidated or coerced into serving the government, as seen in the KESMA case. Evidence also shows that public service media allow minimum space to voices other than the government's and that most of the advertisement revenues by the state and its enterprises go to pro-government media. These are additional sources of concern about the possible existence of diverse and independent media in Hungary.
- These critical points are substantiated by the September 2022 EP resolution, the 2021 Rule of Law Report of the European Commission, the Mission Report: Media Freedom in Hungary Ahead of 2022 Election of the International Press Institute, in the Media Pluralism Monitor Country report on Hungary of the European University Institute and in the Conclusions of the joint international 2019 Press Freedom Mission to Hungary of the European Federation of Journalists.

Education and academic freedom

- The Members of this delegation have also serious concerns about academic freedom in Hungary. In ten years of intensive legal reforms dominated by the *Fidesz* government and its parliamentary majority, the academic landscape has changed considerably.
- Members of the delegation believe that even if they provide some protection to the freedom of teaching and research, the new rules in place are less detailed than previous regulations and altogether they are deemed to weaken the statutory protection of academic freedom⁹. This is in particularly the case in the field of social sciences where the risk of political interference in the selection of topics and curricula is higher. Higher education laws adopted between 2011 and 2014 exerting central control over the key appointments of rectors and chancellors further aggravated this state of play¹⁰. A swift adoption in April 2017 of a law amending the Higher Education Act reforming the licensing regime applicable to foreign higher education institutions further exacerbated the situation. This modification is described by critics as an effort to push the Central European University (CEU) out of Hungary¹¹. The most recent step affecting academic freedom in Hungary is "legislation adopted in April 2021 to restructure the

⁹ [Academic Freedom in Hungary](#). OSUN Global Observatory on Academic Freedom / Central European Observatory, 2021

¹⁰ Corbett A., Gordon C., [Academic Freedom in Europe: The Central European University Affair and the Wider Lessons](#). History of Education Quarterly, Volume 58, Issue 3, August 2018, pp. 467 - 474

¹¹ Internal study on "The situation of Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights in Hungary" prepared by Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs for the LIBE Committee mission to Hungary 29 September - 1 October 2021

administration and management of 11 primary state universities and put them under the control of foundations, together with cultural institutions and other state assets, hereby putting them under the control of the government¹².

- Members of the delegation believe that as regards academic freedom in Hungary, a consistent, clear and comprehensive legal system of academic freedom guarantees is absent. With the emergence of new actors/bodies in which the governmental influence is stronger and academic influence is weaker. This is manifest in increased financial dependence of academic communities¹³. These developments go together with an overall trend in the whole education sector in Hungary consisting in the decrease of teachers' and institutions' autonomy, increasing ideological interference in the content of education and the expansion of church-owned education¹⁴. This is particularly worrying with regard to the centralisation of the market for schoolbooks and the lack of alternatives available to teachers.
- In addition to the evidence gathered during the mission, the European Parliament cited attacks on academic freedom in Hungary in its September 2018 resolution on "The situation in Hungary" and strengthened its position in the September 2022 EP resolution, wherein academic freedom is highlighted as one of the main areas of concern.
- During the discussion with the Academy of Sciences, Members were also missing detailed information on and awareness for plurality in research and science in Hungary.

Cultural policies

- As regards cultural policies, Members of the delegation are concerned with a continued centralisation of decision-making and radical reorganisation of ownership of the Hungarian cultural policy sector: functions are taken over from local governments and social and professional partners are rarely consulted¹⁵. The 2019 cultural campaign of the Prime Minister also raises serious concerns with its announced focus on the cultural transformation of the country, in the ideological and political sense of the term¹⁶. This campaign has been supported by the 2019 Acts on the National Council for Culture and the Institutions of Cultural Strategy, as well as on the Foundation for Hungarian Culture, which brought about a new and more centralised hierarchy of decision-making and of institutions. Overall, Members are concerned with the accelerated reorganisation and centralisation of the cultural arena. It is all the more alerting that the same trends can be observed in the institutional structures of higher education, research, and media¹⁷.

¹² Idem

¹³ [Academic Freedom in Hungary](#), *op.cit* and [Hungary turns its back on Europe 2](#), *op.cit*

¹⁴ For more on most recent overall trends in the education policy in Hungary and their impact on the sector see European Commission, [Furydice Hungary](#), updated on 10 August 2022 and [Hungary turns its back on Europe 2](#), *op.cit*

¹⁵ [Hungary turns its back on Europe 2](#), Hungarian Network of Academics, 2022

¹⁶ "The discourse on power during the past two years has been dominated by the expression and rhetoric of "Kulturkampf" or "culture war", [Hungary turns its back on Europe 2](#), *op.cit*,

¹⁷ [Legislation on culture \(in Hungary\)](#) / Compendium Cultural Policies & Trends, 2021 and [Hungary turns its back on Europe](#), Hungarian Network of Academics, 2020.

Artistic freedom

- In the field of artistic freedom, Members of the delegation have witnessed a very fragmented and controversial landscape with strong differences in perception and communication. After the discussions and based on other material evidence, Members of the delegation point out the existence of a new cultural and artistic expression policy advancing a single nationalist narrative, defining alternative viewpoints as anti-Hungarian and in turn limiting creative expression and diminishing plurality in the art. In particular, the cultural policy measures affecting artistic freedom in Hungary are¹⁸: (1) constitutional and legislative changes aimed at restricting free expression and expanding government regulatory authority over the arts; (2) bureaucratic encroachment into and control over arts institutions; and (3) government consolidation and manipulation of the media to curate nationalist cultural narratives and suppress alternative voices.
- Members also believe that there is a negative impact of the governmental policy on artists and cultural workers, in particular those in opposition to the current government, namely through increasing isolation due to the environment of implicit censorship, limiting access to funding in particular for independent and non-commercial cultural operators, thus making it impossible for them to perform their work, to publish or to participate in exhibitions¹⁹. The increasing role of ideology in the cultural and artistic fields are also very problematic²⁰.

Overall, the situation in Hungary across the policy areas falling under the remit of the CULT Committee seems to be quite complex. Many of the interlocutors pointed to a tense and highly sensitive and politicised working environment characterised by a climate of uneasiness, leading to a potential self-censorship of all potential critics to governmental policies.

Press conference

The mission ended with a press conference by the Chair of the delegation. The link to the press conference is here below.

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20221103IPR47808/culture-and-education-committee-concludes-visit-in-budapest>

EPs multimedia centre: Delegation photos:

https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/photoset/p_20221103_EP139402C_FACTSTORY_016

¹⁸ [Systematic suppression - Hungary's Arts & Culture in Crisis](#) / Artistic Freedom Initiative, 2021

¹⁹ Idem

²⁰ [Cultural Policy in an Illiberal State](#) / Luca KRISTÓF, In: Intersections 3(3), September 2017

MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE MISSION:

Press coverage ahead of the Delegation visit:

One-sided fact-finding in Budapest / Egyoldalú tényfeltárás Budapesten

Hír TV - 31 Oct 2022 - [Video Broadcast Time: 13:00, Duration: 4]

The European Parliament's (EP) special committees find it particularly important to visit Hungary. These so-called fact-finding missions regularly create seriously one-sided programs for their visits, they nearly exclusively meet government-critical businessmen, journalists and public figures and only examine topics that are on the European left-wing's agenda, HU MEP Tamás DEUTSCH (NI) told HírTV channel. The fact-finding mission of the EP's Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) is scheduled to visit Hungary on 2-4 November. MEP DEUTSCH questioned how MEPs could learn about the media situation in Hungary in a balanced way if they do not talk with any non-liberal, non-government-critical stakeholders. The timing of the visit is not a coincidence, the Hungarian and European left-wing seek to prevent an agreement between the European Commission and Hungary about EU funds, he said.

EP wants to prevent an agreement / Gátolni akarja a megállapodást az EP

TV2 - 28 Oct 2022 - [Video Broadcast Time: 18:00, Duration: 2]

The European Parliament's (EP) fact-finding mission will visit Hungary to learn about the country's education, culture and media policies on 2-4 November. According to HU MEP Tamás DEUTSCH (NI), this is another attempt to prevent an agreement between the Hungarian government and Brussels. He added that Brussels has no right to interfere with member states' cultural and education issues. According to the politician, MEPs will only meet the most over-the-top communist, liberal and green institution leaders.

Tamás Deutsch criticizes programme of EP delegation visiting Hungary / Deutsch

Tamás: abszurd és nonszensz az EP szakbizottságának budapesti látogatási programja

Duna TV - 28 Oct 2022 - [Video Broadcast Time: 18:00, Duration: 1]

HU MEP Tamás DEUTSCH (NI) criticized the delegation of the European Parliament's (EP) Culture and Education Committee visiting Hungary next week over not accepting programme proposed by the Hungarian government. MEP DEUTSCH said that this was 'unacceptable' and 'offensive' because neither the EP nor the EU were 'superior bodies' of Hungary, and that the EU should establish a partnership with all member states, and should follow the principle of loyal cooperation.

Coverage following the Delegation visit:

Click on the image to read:



Annex I – Programme of the mission

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION (CULT)

MISSION TO BUDAPEST

(Hungary)

2 - 4 November 2022

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 2 November 2022

- A.M. Travel to Budapest [Depending on the individual travelling arrangements]
- 13:00 Meeting at Ferihegy Airport
- 14:00 - 15:30 Meeting with **Ms Anett Bósz**, Deputy Mayor of Budapest
Address: "Deák17 Galéria", Deák Ferenc u. 17., 1052 Budapest
- 16:00 - 17:00 Visit of the Hungarian National Assembly and meeting with Dr. László Pószán, Chairman of the Committee on Culture and Mr Sándor BODÓ, Vice Chairman and Mr. István Szabadi, Vice Chairman
Address: 1055 Budapest, Kossuth Lajos tér 1-3.
- 17.00 - 17.30 Guided tour of the Hungarian National Assembly Building
- 18:00 - 19:00 Visit of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music - meeting with Andrea Vigh, President of the Academy and representatives
Address: 1061 Budapest, Andrásy út 22

19.30 Check in at the hotel and free evening

Thursday, 3 November 2022

08:30 Departure from hotel

09:00 - 11:00 Meeting with representatives of the *media sector* in Hungary:

- **András Pethő**, founder and editor, Direkt36²¹
- Ágnes Bozsó, TELEX²²
- Gábor Orbán, managing director, Tilos Radio
- Mihály Hardy, chief editor, Klub Radio
- Gábor Polyák, associate professor at the Institute for Communication and Media Studies of the University of Pécs and head of research at Mertek Media Monitor
- Attila Kert, head of office CEE, Euronews

Address: EP Liaison Office in Hungary: 1024 Budapest, Lövház u. 35

11:00 - 12:30 Free time

12:30 - 14:30 Meeting with representatives of *academia, cultural and solidarity sectors* in Hungary:

- Márton Illés of the Independent Theatre Hungary²³
- Zoltán Imely, production manager & Anikó Rácz, artistic director of SÍN Arts Center at the Association of Independent Performing Artists²⁴
- Barna Petrányi, managing director at Pro Progressione²⁵
- Dr. Maria Heller-Soignet, PhD, Habil. associate professor Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Social Sciences²⁶, Institute of Sociology, Dept of Sociology
- **Fruzsina Benkő**, founder and leader at In Da House²⁷

²¹ <https://www.direkt36.hu/en/>

²² <https://telex.hu/english>

²³ <https://independenttheater.hu/en/about-us/>

²⁴ <https://www.feszsegelyalap.org/english>

²⁵ <https://proprogressione.com>

²⁶ <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Maria-Heller-2>

²⁷ <https://indahousehungary.hu/about-us>

- Péter Forgács, a theatre director and teacher & Ádám Nyári, the Student President of the Free SZFE Foundation²⁸
- Ágnes Fernengel, executive director at A Kozelet Iskolaja/ School of Public Life²⁹
- Balázs Zsedényi, theater producer at ATRIUM - Lifeboat Unit³⁰

Address: EP Liaison Office in Hungary: 1024 Budapest, Lövőház u. 35

15:30 - 16:30 Meeting with the National Media and Infocommunication Authority and discussion with its president, Dr. András Koltay

Address: 1015 Budapest, Ostrom u. 23-25

17:00 - 18:00 Visit of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and meeting with Tamás Freund, President of the Academy

Address: 1051 Budapest, Széchenyi I. tér 9

18:30 - 19:30 Visit of the Central European University and meeting with representatives of the leadership :

Prof. Eva Fodor, Pro-Rector for Foresight and Analysis

Prof. Laszlo Bruszt, co-director of CEU Democracy Institute

Prof. Renata Uitz, co-direct of CEU Democracy Insitute

Prof. Gabor Klaniczay

Address: 1051 Budapest, Nádor u. 9

Friday, 4 November 2022

²⁸ <https://culturalfoundation.eu/stories/freeSZFE>; <https://www.freeszfe.hu/supportfreeszfe/>

²⁹ <https://kozeletiskolaja.hu/homepage/>

³⁰ <http://atrium.hu> | <http://facebook.com/atriumszinhasz>

- 08:15 Check-out (luggage to the bus)
Departure from hotel
- 09:00 - 10:00 Meeting with János CSÁK, Minister for culture and Innovation: higher education, innovation and cultural affairs

Address: 1095 Budapest, Komor Marcell u. 1. (MÜPA cultural institution)
- 10:30 - 11:00 Meeting with representatives of the Hungarian Rectors' Conference ³¹

Address: EP Liaison Office in Hungary: 1024 Budapest, Lövház u. 35
- Dr. László Borhy, president of HRC and rector of Eötvös Loránd University
 - Dr. Balázs Heidrich, vice-president of HRC and rector of Budapest Business School
 - Dr. Levente Kovács, rector of Óbuda University
 - Petra Perényi, European and International Secretary, HRC
- 11.00- 12.30 Meeting with organisations working with refugees:
Focus on young people and children in age of education
- Roland Schilling and Nina Hager, UNHCR³²
 - Erika Wittmer-Besze, press officer at Caritas³³
 - Ágnes Papp & Natália Pados, Hungarian InterChurch Aid³⁴
 - James Peter, President, Kíry Noémi Ambrus, Operations and Field Manager & Arnold Kovács, Project Manager at Next Step Hungary Association³⁵
 - Zsuzsa Mátraházi, Operations Leader at Budapest Bike Maffia³⁶

³¹ <http://www.mrk.hu/en/current/>

³² <https://www.unhcr.org/hu/>

³³ <https://www.karitasz.hu/>

³⁴ <https://segelyszervezet.hu/> EN: <https://segelyszervezet.hu/en/>

³⁵ <https://nextstepeu.org/>

³⁶ <https://bikemaffia.com/menekultkrizis/>

- Mr Balázs Gaál, Advocacy Assistant at the Hungarian Helsinki Committee

Address: EP Liaison Office in Hungary: 1024 Budapest, Lövház u. 35

13:00 - 13:30 Press conference by Head of Delegation and CULT Chair, Ms VERHEYEN

Address: EP Liaison Office in Hungary: 1024 Budapest, Lövház u. 35

14:00 Departure to Airport and end of the programme

Programme Coordination and Contact:

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In Budapest:

Nils Danklefsen

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Mobile during mission:

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