

Budapest, 22 September 2021

Ursula von der Leyen
President
European Commission

Subject: Request for the application of the rule of law mechanism in respect of the Hungarian Government's aid policy in breach of fundamental rights

Dear President of the European Commission,

In further support of the request¹, which we sent to you on 1 April 2021 on the subject matter, I am sending you the attached petition², which has so far been signed by nearly 8000 persons.³

In your reply letter of 18 May 2021 (Ref. Ares(2021)3279862 - 18/05/2021)⁴, you unfortunately do not indicate any substantive action by the Commission to remedy the irregularities described in our petition and, to our knowledge, no action has been taken since then. What is more, in response to questions from several Members of the European Parliament⁵, the Commission has replied⁶ that you are not even aware of our letter!

Materials on this subject appears regularly in the remaining independent media, and they provide evidence of a further deterioration of the situation.⁷

In view of the seriousness of the situation and its unsustainability, we look forward to your prompt response and action.

Yours sincerely,

András Horváth
President of the Hungarian Anti-Corruption Association

¹ https://kelleszegyesulet.hu/docs/Europai_Bizottsagnak_onkormanyzatok_diszkriminacio.pdf

² <https://szabad.ahang.hu/petitions/igazsagos-partfuggetlen-finanszirozast-a-telepuleseknek>

³ https://kelleszegyesulet.hu/site/assets/files/1/igazsagos_partfuggetlen_atadasra_c.pdf

⁴ https://kelleszegyesulet.hu/docs/Reply_to_Andras_Horvath_May.pdf

⁵ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-003115_EN.html

⁶ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-003115-ASW_EN.pdf

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https://hvg.hu/gazdasag/20210910_Megyei_kozgyulesi_dontes_Csongradban_Egy_szegedi_lakos_53_ezer_forintot_mig_egy_morahalmi_794_ezer_forintot_er 10.09.2021 (In Csongrád County, the government allocated 15 times larger development grant per capita to cities led by Fidesz politicians than to cities led by opposition politicians.)

https://nepszava.hu/3129398_esze-agaban-sincs-kifizetni-a-kormanyrak-a-budapesti-tomegkozlekedes-normativajat-tarlos-persze-idoben-megkapta, 16.08.2021 (The government does not transfer the annual payment for public transport to the Budapest Municipality although this is obligatory according to the Law on the State Budget. Under the previous Mayor, who was from Fidesz, the payment always arrived in due time.)

<https://444.hu/2021/07/13/nem-tartottak-be-az-orban-szabalyt-elbuktak-a-gyaraikat>, 13.07.2021 (The government changed the taxation system relating to certain cities led by the opposition so that the municipalities of these cities lost a large part of their revenue.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6B6_BNBRj0 (video on the same topic)

<https://g7.hu/kozelet/20210713/az-ellenzeki-vezetesu-varosok-lakoit-ol-fejenkent-39-ezer-forintot-vett-el-a-kormany-hogy-aztan-valamennyit-visszaadjon/>, 13.07.2021 (Concrete figures prove that the government took away much more money from cities led by the opposition than cities led by Fidesz politicians).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dM4MEVsvVN8>, 08.07.2021 (Video, in which mayors from opposition parties tell how their municipalities are being discriminated by the government.)

https://nepszava.hu/3125479_az-ellenzeki-vezetesu-budapesti-kerulet-kimaradtak-a-26-milliardos-fejlesztési-forrasbol 06.07.2021 (In Budapest only those districts received development grants from the governments which are led by Fidesz politicians)