

PRESS RELEASE, Budapest, 22.09.2021

Fair, non-partisan funding for municipalities!

The [Hungarian Anti-Corruption Association](#) (KELLESZ) and [aHang](#) delivered a [petition](#) to the European Commission Representation in Hungary today. The petition, signed by almost 8,000 people, asks Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, to take strong action against the Hungarian government's practice of distributing funds to local governments on the basis of party politics and depriving them of resources on such grounds.

KELLESZ backed up its petition with [detailed analysis](#), which it had already sent to the European Commission, but the Commission's [response](#) did not indicate any substantive action by the Commission to remedy the anomalies. Moreover, in [response](#) to [questions](#) from several Members of the European Parliament, the Commission replied that it was not even aware of the analysis by KELLESZ. Objecting to this, MEP Daniel Freund has put a [new question](#) to the Commission, to which no reply has yet been received.

The government's current practice also jeopardises the efficient use of EU funds, as they are not allocated where they could be used most efficiently. At the same time, the European Commission is responsible for enforcing EU law and protecting the EU's financial interests.

“By launching the petition and submitting the relevant analysis, our aim is to change this unliveable system with its serious corruption risks. The decision on allocating funds to local governments must not be based on party political affiliation, but on how far the financial support serves the real needs and long-term interests of the people living there”, said András Horváth, President of KELLESZ.

“The distribution of EU funds on the basis of party politics has been taking place also because the European Commission's bodies are not taking effective and timely action to tackle detected violation of EU legislation. As EU citizens, we find it unacceptable that a study by an anti-corruption organisation, backed up by detailed data, is first answered by the Commission with a meaningless reply containing no concrete action, and then, months later, a member of the Commission claims not to be aware of the study. If an initiative backed by 8,000 EU citizens does not receive attention, it is no coincidence that corruption based on party politics is rampant in Hungary and other countries”, added Balázs Nagy Navarro, member of the Board of KELLESZ.

The petition was handed over with a [covering letter](#), which gave further emphasis to what the petition said. Photos taken at the petition handover, which include signs brought by participants criticising the current practice, can be found here:

https://kelleszegyesulet.hu/pics/Peticioatadas_fenykepek.zip

After the petition handover, András Horváth and Balázs Nagy Navarro held a press conference. A video of the event can be seen here (in Hungarian):

<https://www.facebook.com/szabadahang/videos/261315072525960/>

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