



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY
Administrative Capacity Building and Programme Implementation II
Hungary

Brussels,
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Dear Mr Horváth,

Ms von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, has asked me to thank you for, and reply to your letter dated 22 September, which follows up on your initial letter dated 1 April 2021.

As indicated in my initial reply dated 18 May 2021 (ref.: Ares(2021)3279862), the Commission has identified shortcomings regarding the respect of the rule of law in Hungary¹. For this reason and as part of the on-going discussions on the Recovery and Resilience Plan and the programming of the 2021-27 cohesion policy funds, the relevant Commission services have been working with the Hungarian authorities in order to get additional guarantees. Such guarantees aim to reinforce the anti-corruption framework and improve competition in public procurement in line with the 2019 and 2020 country-specific recommendations addressed to Hungary.

In addition, the Commission intends to make use of all the legal instruments at its disposal in order to protect the EU's budget. In this context, by virtue of Article 6(4) of the Regulation on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget², the Commission has sent administrative letters to request information from Hungary.

¹ See Commission Staff Working Document '2021 Rule of Law Report' Country Chapter on the rule of law situation in Hungary' (SWD(2021)714 final of 20.07.2021)

² Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020.

Mr András Horváth
President
Hungarian Anti-Corruption Association
6000 Kecskemét, Kossuth tér 6-7
Hungary
korrupcio.ellenseg@gmail.com

Finally, please note that if you believe that your national authorities have infringed upon EU law, you may submit a complaint to the Commission via a complaint form³. The form, which can be filled in any EU official language, should describe the area(s) of EU law which you believe have been infringed upon and provide details of the steps already taken in your Member State.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)
Nicolas GIBERT-MORIN
Head of Unit

³ For more information see: https://ec.europa.eu/assets/sg/report-a-breach/complaints_en/index.html