

**Petition
to Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission**

Dear President of the European Commission

We ask the European Commission to release the Recovery and Resilience Facility funds and cohesion funds to Hungary, but only under strict conditions.

Hungary is in dire need of EU money. Public education and health care are in ruins,¹ the state debt has greatly increased during the last few years,² the Hungarian currency's exchange rate has sunk to an all-time low,³ inflation is soaring,⁴ and the environmental and climate goals are far from being attained. EU funding could substantially help to rectify all these ills.

However, the way EU money has been used so far forebodes that fundamental changes are needed in governance to avoid further worsening of the situation in case the Hungarian Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)⁵ and the Partnership Agreement for the period 2021-2027 (PA)⁶ are approved by the European Commission. Namely, EU funding in Hungary has greatly contributed to the disarray of the economy,⁷ destruction of the environment,⁸ and dismantling of democracy.⁹ It has also contributed significantly to the fact that corruption has become widespread and organised crime has risen to an extraordinary degree.¹⁰ According to many experts, the current system of EU funding has done more harm than good to Hungary.¹¹

We believe that the European Commission was right to start the rule of law procedure in relation to Hungary.¹² By definition, if the situation with the rule of law has deteriorated to such a degree in a member state that this procedure needs to be started, EU funding is already doing more harm than good.

For the above reasons, we urge you to approve Hungary's RRP and PA only if Hungary fully implements rule of law-related rulings¹³ of the European Court of Justice and the rule of law related infringement procedures and recommendations referred to in the Commission's Rule of Law Report¹⁴, as well as the soles the problems raised under the conditionality regulation¹⁵, in the Article 7 TEU procedure¹⁶, and the country-specific recommendations under the European Semester¹⁷ (including the Country Report¹⁸), taking into account the recommendations of GRECO¹⁹, Transparency International Hungary²⁰, Hungarian Anti-Corruption Association²¹, as well as environmental²² and other independent civil society organisations. The majority of the most important recommendations could be implemented within a few months, and there are certainly no acceptable arguments why they should not be implemented.

We would also like to underline that our concerns are not limited to Hungary. We also fear for the future of the European Union. If the Commission tolerates the breaching of EU legislation, then this sends the message to everyone that the rule of law does not prevail in the EU itself, and those who violate laws and contracts can get away with their misdeeds. Such an attitude undermines the very foundations of the European Union.

We are looking forward to your reply as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

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- ¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/system/files/2022-european-semester-country-report-hungary_en_0.pdf
 - ² <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/hungary/national-government-debt>
 - ³ <https://dailynewshungary.com/hungarian-forint-not-only-the-regions-but-the-worlds-weakest-currency/>
 - ⁴ <https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/interestrates/hungary-inflation-accelerates-more-than-forecast-1031575475>
 - ⁵ <https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#>
 - ⁶ <https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/partnersegi-megallapodas>
 - ⁷ https://www.levego.hu/sites/default/files/opinions_EU-funding_Hungary_2022March.pdf
 - ⁸ <https://eu.boell.org/en/2021/11/05/tragic-consequences-eu-funding-environment-hungary>
 - ⁹ https://transparency.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/pbrief_structural_funds_nov17.pdf
 - ¹⁰ <https://ceupress.com/book/post-communist-mafia-state-2>
 - ¹¹ https://www.levego.hu/sites/default/files/opinions_EU-funding_Hungary_2022March.pdf
 - ¹² https://ec.europa.eu/info/system/files/2022-european-semester-country-report-hungary_en_0.pdf
 - ¹³ <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/documents.jsf?num=C-156/21>
 - ¹⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/40_1_193993_coun_chap_hungary_en.pdf
 - ¹⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R2092>
 - ¹⁶ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0340_EN.html
 - ¹⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/system/files/2022-european-semester-csr-hungary_en.pdf
 - ¹⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/info/system/files/2022-european-semester-country-report-hungary_en_0.pdf
 - ¹⁹ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/greco/evaluations/hungary>
 - ²⁰ https://transparency.hu/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/transparency_int_jogallam_korrupcio_tanulmany_kivonat_angol_nyelven_2.pdf
 - ²¹ <https://kelleszegyesulet.hu/en/>
 - ²² <https://www.levego.hu/egyeb/ngo-proposals-for-the-partnership-agreement-on-eu-funds-and-the-national-recovery-and-resilience-plan/>