



**Hungarian National Assembly  
Committee on European Affairs**

## **CONCLUSIONS**

of the

Meeting of the European Affairs Committees of the Hungarian National Assembly, the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Czech Republic, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and the National Council of the Slovak Republic

The Representatives of the European Affairs Committees of the Visegrád Group Countries

### **Regarding the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 and Strategic Agenda 2019-2024**

- underline that the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 (hereinafter: MFF) should be based on a comprehensive, balanced agreement representing the interests of the EU Member States;
- support the commitment of taking action against climate change, in accordance with the Paris Agreement;
- welcome the Joint Declaration adopted in Bratislava on 29 November 2018 by the Friends of Cohesion Summit on the MFF;
- highlight that the cohesion policy has consistently proved its added value and brought economic profits for the entire EU and all Member States;
- emphasise that cohesion policy and common agricultural policy (hereinafter: CAP) should be simplified, effective and sufficiently flexible for the EU Member States and both policies should be financed at least at the level of the current MFF. In order to ensure the predictability and long-term planning, pre-allocated national envelopes have to be safeguarded during the whole MFF period;
- stress that CAP direct payments strengthen the single market by avoiding distortions of competition between EU Member States, and should ensure level playing field for all the EU farmers, preserving agricultural sector and food industry in the Member States;
- call on the European Commission to manage economically its granted budgetary means, especially in the area of operating costs and when outsourcing services that could be provided by Commission's own resources;
- invite the competent EU institutions to constructively cooperate in the negotiation process for the timely adoption of the MFF with a view to ensuring a smooth transition from the current programming period to the new budgetary framework, thus securing the predictability for all the stakeholders;
- consider that the Strategic Agenda 2019-2024 properly identifies and addresses the most stressing challenges and appreciate that the primary objective became the protecting of citizens and freedoms;
- hope that the unanimously adopted Strategic Agenda will be implemented by the EU institutions as general political directions and priorities of the EU.

## **Regarding the regional and interregional infrastructure projects**

- highlight the necessity of improving the connectivity and accessibility of the major cities and regions of Central Europe in order to promote economic development, territorial cohesion and sectoral cooperation in areas such as tourism and employment;
- firmly believe that the completion of the Miskolc-Košice highway section (part of the Via Carpathia network) as well as the Budimír-Bidovce section of Slovakia's D1 motorway will significantly improve the connection of the neighbouring regions;
- oppose the cuts proposed by the Commission and urge for adequate resources for the Cohesion Fund, which is one of the main sources of TEN-T investments, significantly contributing to strengthen the connectivity in Europe;
- uphold the position that the Cohesion Fund resources transferred to the CEF should be allocated in full amount under the respective national envelopes of the Cohesion Member States during the whole MFF period and should realize the goal for reaching social, economic and territorial cohesion across Europe.

## **Regarding the perspective of cross-border tourism**

- remind that Europe is the world's leading tourist destination and this advantage should be better exploited by common actions in the respective countries and regions;
- are convinced that the cross-border tourism constitutes a higher added value in the neighbouring regions helping to achieve the increase of their GDP;
- highlight that due to the cross-border characteristics of landscapes with many attractions and destinations, joint and coordinated approach and creation of joint tourist products is needed;
- point out that tourism activities are often important first steps in improving the sense of social cohesion along the borders resulting in additional positive effects on cross-border cooperation culture.

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