



**SZUVERENITÁSVÉDELMI
HIVATAL**

Sovereignty Protection Office

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Budapest, 5 September 2024

To Ursula Gertrud von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

European Commission
Brussels
Berlaymont Building

Subject: Request for information

Dear Madam President,

Ensuring that the conditions for democratic functioning are in place, so that informed voters can express their will in free and fair elections, is of paramount importance for Hungary's sovereignty. Therefore, any attempt to maliciously and deliberately influence or manipulate public opinion is a serious threat to the sovereignty of the country.

This position is supported by the European Parliament resolution of 1 June 2023 on foreign interference in all democratic processes in the European Union, including disinformation (INGE 2 report).

To ensure that the conditions emphasised in the European Parliament's resolution can be implemented as effectively as possible, the Hungarian National Assembly established the Sovereignty Protection Office by Act LXXXVIII of 2023 on the Protection of National Sovereignty. One of the Office's duties is to carry out mapping inquiries in order to gain a better understanding of the processes highlighted in the INGE 2 report and to propose effective mitigation measures in relation thereto to the Hungarian National Assembly.

In this mapping inquiry, as the report also states, particular attention should be paid to the specific disinformation efforts and processes that may be involved.

Of particular relevance to the ongoing mapping inquiry is the Sargentini Report, which is the basis for the rule of law procedure against Hungary, as well as the "shadow report" used in the rule of law procedure and prepared in cooperation with NGOs in Hungary (Amnesty International Hungary,



Eötvös Károly Institute, K-Monitor, Hungarian Helsinki Committee, Mérték Media Monitor, Ökotárs Foundation, Political Capital, Hungarian Civil Liberties Union) for the European Commission's 2020-2024 Rule of Law Reports, but notably and particularly the 2020 Rule of Law Report. Among the NGOs contributing opinions, "shadow reports" to both the Sargentini Report and the Rule of Law Report, many are partly or entirely funded by support from third countries outside the EU.

On the basis of the above, I ask the President of the Commission for her support in making the following information available and accessible for the mapping inquiry conducted by my Office:

- what criteria were used to select the above organisations whose opinions were sought;
- the partial report sent by the above NGOs, but in particular by Transparency International Hungary;
- information on which part of the reports prepared in cooperation with NGOs was prepared by Transparency International Hungary;
- what data and information from the partial reports submitted was used in the preparation of the final version of the reports;
- what financial support was provided by the organisations of the European Commission or the European Parliament to the NGOs submitting the partial reports.

Thank you for your helpful contribution.

Sincerely,

Tamás Láncki

President

