



Věra Jourová

Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency

Budapest, 30th April 2024

Dear Madam Commissioner,

As you are certainly aware, according to the conclusions adopted after the special European Council of 17-18 April, *“the Union and its Member States are determined to closely monitor and contain any risks stemming from disinformation, including through artificial intelligence, as well as foreign information manipulation and interference in electoral processes”*.

Considering this, it is particularly incomprehensible why the European Commission started an infringement procedure against Hungary at the beginning of February for the creation of the Sovereignty Protection Act, including the establishment of the Sovereignty Protection Office. According to the Commission’s own reasoning, the function of the Office is to *„identify and investigate organisations that use foreign funding to influence the outcome of elections or the will of the voters”*. We hope that the European Council’s conclusion calling for the exact same mission will facilitate the closure of the infringement procedure with a positive result for Hungary.

Given that, in its conclusion, the European Council *“invites EU institutions and national authorities to cooperate on such matters”*, despite the Commission’s efforts to impede the tasks and responsibilities of our Office, I hereby offer the cooperation of the Sovereignty Protection Office and recommend our reports, which will be published upon the completion of the investigations. We are doing so in the hope that, instead of promoting the interference attempts led from third countries outside the European Union, the European Commission will start to support—or at least not to undermine—the Member States’ efforts to protect their national sovereignty and the fairness of electoral processes.

Please allow me to comply with the European Commission’s request by briefly summarising already in this letter some information revealed by the Office during the first three months of its existence which justifies the concerns raised by the European Council.

The joint candidate for prime minister nominated by the opposition parties participating in the 2022 parliamentary elections in an alliance admitted in several statements that his association had received foreign funding equivalent to several billions of Hungarian forints through an American foundation established immediately prior to the elections. The State Audit Office, which monitors the parties’ campaign spending, found that the aforementioned opposition electoral alliance had received prohibited foreign funding amounting to more than 4 billion Hungarian forints, i.e., 10 million euros, most of which came from the aforesaid American foundation and a smaller proportion from a Swiss-registered foundation.



In a conversation leaked to social media platform X, the leaders of the American foundation discuss how their political objectives can be achieved by influencing the democratic processes of certain Central European states, including and primarily Hungary. They also express that the attainment of the defined objectives requires major donors, such as George Soros. During the conversation, they discuss in detail the steps of the campaign strategy aimed at influencing the elections and instructed by the foundation. It can be demonstrated that the prohibited foreign funding provided through the foundation was used to finance campaign events, campaign tools and mobilisation.

Overall, it can be stated that the financing model built prior to the 2022 elections is capable of permanently financing political activities in Hungary; this is therefore not a one-off but a continuously active interference attempt. In the view of the Sovereignty Protection Office, this prejudices the national sovereignty of Hungary and poses an extreme risk for the fairness of the process of the 2024 European Parliamentary and Hungarian municipal elections.

It could be seen clearly in the current and previous term of the European Commission that George Soros, Alex Soros and the NGOs funded by them could voice their opinion to you in person on countless occasions, which has been reflected in your work and communication as a commissioner, almost unchanged. We also found out that the leader of one of the electoral alliance parties having received prohibited foreign funding consulted you—quoting her words: successfully—on EU actions against Hungary, by her own admission, every three days.

We hope that, as a result of the European Council's recognition, the European Commission will amend its earlier position and, instead of assisting in the interference attempts of actors outside the European Union, it will support the Member States' efforts to protect their national sovereignty and electoral processes, or at least cease any attack against them.

For this, we would like to recommend the findings of the Sovereign Protection Office to the current and upcoming European Commission.

Sincerely,

Tamás Láncki

President of the Sovereignty Protection Office