



**SOVEREIGNTY
PROTECTION OFFICE**

INQUIRY REPORT

The impact of Átlátszó's activities on Hungarian sovereignty

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THE IMPACT OF ÁTLÁTSZÓ'S ACTIVITIES ON HUNGARIAN SOVEREIGNTY



"The world doesn't run in secret anymore. We are now living in the Age of Overt Action."

David Ignatius in 1991 in The Washington Post

SUMMARY FINDINGS

On 25 June 2024, the Sovereignty Protection Office launched an individual – comprehensive – inquiry in connection with the activities of the portal Átlátszó. It notified Tamás Bodoky, managing director of the non-profit-making limited company operating the portal and editor-in-chief of Átlátszó, of the launch of the inquiry. With the notification, the Sovereignty Protection Office (hereinafter referred to as “the Office”) requested the non-profit-making limited company to provide information and documents relating to the transparency of the organisation’s operation and activities and extended the inquiry to the Átlátszónet Foundation. The Office also reminded the managing director of his obligation to reply. Tamás Bodoky refused to provide the necessary information and to cooperate with the Office.

The Sovereignty Protection Office has concluded its inquiry, which has led to the following main findings:

1. An overview of Átlátszó’s funding, activities and network of connections confirms that the organisation under inquiry is a member of an international network built in accordance with the new US doctrine of national security and foreign influence acquisition formulated in the 1980s, which represents US interests against those of the target country (in this case Hungary) all over the world. This network has brought some of the formerly covert US intelligence activities into the legal space and has also attracted private capital in addition to state resources, thus multiplying the effectiveness of foreign intervention activities. The Office’s report details the history of the network’s creation and the scope of its activities, as well as its links to Átlátszó.
2. Átlátszó operates in line with foreign interest and with foreign state funding. The description of the background and operation of the network also provides an answer as to why the “fight against corruption” has become the main tool of economic and political intervention of the United States of America. It also shows the role of the organisation under inquiry in the network.
3. The report highlights that the topics of “transparency” and “anti-corruption” that the network is promoting are not ultimately a means to ensure the integrity of public life and fair competition between market participants, but a highly effective weapon of US economic

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and political interests. By preparing and executing its tasks and maintaining pressure, the network helps to enforce a political and economic environment that maintains the status quo in the interests of the United States. This makes it understandable why the United States has an interest in spending US taxpayer money on Hungarian political organisations.

4. Átlátszó works to influence public and social decision-making processes. Decades of US pressure, as described in the Sovereignty Protection Office's inquiry report, are also having an impact on the European Union's institutional systems. It enforces its aspirations in federal and national decision-making by this means as well. The background to the Sargentini Report, which caused financial damage to Hungary and political and lobbying damage to the European federal system, is a case in point. The author of the Sargentini Report bases her accusations on partial reports sent by Átlátszó and other Hungarian and international NGOs representing foreign interests. The allegations and accusations attached by Átlátszó to the Sargentini Report are not accessible to the Hungarian public, and Átlátszó hides their content. The accusations in the Sargentini Report do not describe the situation in Hungary but show how the political pressure organisations in Brussels and Hungary serve US interests.
5. As a member of the foreign influence network maintained by the United States of America, Átlátszó not only uses the documents obtained in the course of its thousands of requests for public interest data and investigative journalistic activities to write its articles, but also uploads more than 9,000 documents to the server of the network's US central organisation, providing the foreign party with ammunition for its intelligence and influence activities. In addition to contracts and correspondence between state and municipal institutions, Hungarian private companies and individuals, the uploaded documents also contain hundreds of telephone numbers or other personal, sensitive information. Átlátszó's public interest data request activities and its secret, anonymous acceptance of leaked state documents, when done as part of a network created and funded by a foreign power, creates an opportunity to mask intelligence activities against the Hungarian state and its institutions, disguised as legitimate data gathering. This in itself is a violation of the sovereignty of the nation state.
6. Átlátszó's complex funding, involving several organisations, is not transparent. The financial accounts of the Asimov Foundation, Átlátszónet Foundation and atlatszoz.hu Public Benefit Non-Profit-Making Limited Company are sometimes confusing and contradictory, and the connection between the grants and their use is often unclear. The public can learn almost nothing about the financing of Átlátszó between 2011 and 2016. The information available for the years 2017 to 2023 points to a number of financial and accounting anomalies. In 2023, the Átlátszónet Foundation's financial statement shows a domestic grant of HUF 7 193 637 received from the Ökotárs Foundation, but this amount comes from the European Union's Our Common Values Programme. In addition, the Ökotárs Foundation lists HUF 18 084 960

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as a grant to the Átlátszónet Foundation, so it is not clear how much money the foundation actually received to fight against the battery factories to be established in Hungary. For a significant proportion of the revenues generated by the one percent personal income tax donation, which is considered public money, the detailed accounting obligation required by law is circumvented by the foundation that receives the donations transferring the money to the non-profit-making limited company, which is no longer obliged to report in detail on the use of the money. Átlátszó's funding background also clearly demonstrates that the organisation is part of the US foreign influence acquisition network described in the inquiry report. Foreign network financing is a prerequisite for the establishment and operation of Átlátszó, without which it would not be able to operate at all or only with much less intensity.

7. The inquiry and the report were carried out without the cooperation of Átlátszó. The result of the inquiry explains the resistance of the organisation, as the activities revealed clearly pose a sovereignty protection problem for Hungary. The extent of the damage caused by Átlátszó's activities is considerable.