



MTI/Szilárd Koszticsák

PM Viktor Orbán gives speech at Băile Tușnad

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**LMP presser on home-care subsidy**

**State secretary opens summer camp for Carpathian Basin children**

**Stats office publishes employment figures for April-June**

**Presser for Maccabi Games 2019 Budapest**

## TOP STORY

# ORBÁN: HUNGARY CAN GUARD INDEPENDENCE

The Hungarian nation today has the political and economic means to protect itself and preserve its independence, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said on Saturday in his annual address at the “Tuszványos” summer university.

Soon it will have the physical means to defend itself, too, Orbán told several thousand people gathered at the event held in Băile Tușnad (Tusnádfürdő), in central Romania. Orbán said the country was on a promising path but dangers to its continued development came not from domestic sources but were external. The prime minister said his political generation would now be “prime time” for the next 15 years and the most important tasks lay ahead.

Hungary’s government has succeeded in regaining the country’s sovereignty and protecting its borders against migration, Orbán said. The International Monetary Fund “has gone home”, he added. “Our generation has been given a historic opportunity to strengthen the Hungarian nation,” he said. “This has been an unfairly hard struggle up until now and will remain an unfairly hard one going forward. He said that over the course of the 30 years since the country’s democratic transition, Hungarians had realised that “it’s not about setting a goal for a certain time period, but rather about giving meaning to our own lives within a period of time.”

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**ORBÁN: HUNGARY ON PROMISING PATH**

“Hungary today is on a promising path, its finances in order, the public debt is falling, growth is strong, wages are rising, small and medium-sized businesses are expanding, families are getting bigger, and nation-building is vibrant,” Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said in his annual address at the “Tusványos” summer university. Orbán also said that thanks to complex manoeuvres, US billionaire “George Soros’s man has been prevented from taking over the European Commission and placing his ideological guerrillas in important European positions.” The prime minister said the commission should act as the guardian of the European treaties. “Political activism must be stopped,” he said. “It’s not a political body ... its job isn’t to organise political attacks against member states.” “It sets the direction and the strategic decisions are made by the European Council of elected prime ministers,” he added.

Orbán insisted that “errors made in the EU over the last five years” must be corrected, especially in the areas of migration and the economy. The commission should no longer preoccupy itself with migration, he said, adding that a council of interior ministers of Schengen area member states should take over all responsibilities related to migration.

He called for European socialism to be stopped in its tracks and for

a competitive European economy to be restored. “We must support successful economies and reject the idea of raising unemployment benefits at European level,” Orbán said. Instead, jobs must be created and taxes reduced everywhere, he said, adding that red tape must be cut and investments encouraged in place of austerity policies.

The prime minister said that if the government’s assessment of the European economic outlook turned out to be the case next spring, it would be necessary to draw up a second economic protection plan by then, and possibly a third one in the autumn of 2020. The action plans would have to be geared towards improving the country’s competitiveness, he said, adding that western European economies were not developing well enough to support Hungary’s desired growth trajectory. He said Hungary must rethink its plans for 2020-2021 in order to minimise external risks and mobilise internal resources.

Speaking about the impending agenda, Orbán said Hungary would be embroiled in a battle of the rule of law, too. He added, however, that Hungary must “hold its nerve” but at the same time “we shouldn’t offend our partners”. Referring to the Finnish EU presidency, Orbán said: “We will evaluate the state of Hungarian rule of law with our Finnish friends.”

Orbán said common wisdom held that liberal democracies were the natural order in a world pervaded by “a kind of liberal internationalism”

leading to the formation of a “liberal empire”. The European Union, he insisted, was an embodiment of this idea. “Obviously, something entirely different is happening in Hungary,” Orbán said. The sense of belonging to a nation, he said, had been slipping away and Hungarian communities living beyond the border had struggled to withstand pressure to assimilate. Moreover, the means to protect sovereignty -- the police and army -- had been degraded, he added. In 2010, solving these inherited problems within a framework of liberal democracy looked impossible and so something else had to be done, he said. Orbán argued for preserving the framework of the free market system and democratic legal and political institutions while changing the existing social structures. “In other words, ‘yes’ to democracy, ‘no’ to liberalism,” Orbán said. “We had to rethink and put the relationship between the individual and society on a new footing,” he said.

**OPPOSITION PARTIES SAVAGE ORBÁN OVER BAILE TUSNAD SPEECH**

Hungarian opposition parties on Saturday slammed Prime Minister Viktor Orbán for his speech at the annual summer university in Băile Tuşnad (Tusnádfürdő), in central Romania.

István Ujhelyi, an MEP for the Socialists, said in a statement that Orbán’s rhetoric could not mask that his family members and friends had

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“accumulated unprecedented wealth”. Ujhelyi accused the prime minister of creating “a high-handed kleptocratic mafia state” over the past few years. Neither could he mask “the near collapse of Hungary’s health-care system or the deliberate degrading of the education system,” he said. “Orbán has declared war on the Europe that subscribes to social values ... while fully neglecting the everyday problems of working Hungarians.”

The group spokesman of the leftist Democratic Coalition (DK) berated Orbán’s insistence that the world was either Christian or liberal. “Individual freedom, a nation’s conservation and a strengthening Europe” were not mutually exclusive, Zsolt Gréczy told a press conference. “Liberal democracy means that I accept that anyone is free to decide about their own future, customs, feelings, belief and faith,” he said, adding that a liberal state governed by the rule of law strengthened the cohesion of nations. “It does not wish to weaken a common Europe of nations but to strengthen it,” he added. Ferenc Gyurcsány, DK’s leader said on Facebook that Orbán’s “decade-long struggle is about nothing other than subjugating Hungarians to his own

dictatorial power and creating a sense of constant threat.”

The group leader of nationalist Jobbik said Orbán “has literally become a butcher of the nation, interested in nothing other than his own mad pursuit of power”. He is ready to sacrifice Hungary to achieve that goal, he added. In a statement, Péter Jakab accused the prime minister of isolating Hungarians from the rest of Europe. “Orbán has kicked his own allies in Europe so he could present himself as a freedom fighter in his own country,” he said. The prime minister has in the meantime “driven Hungary back into the arms of the Russians, an embrace we sought to escape 30 years ago,” Jakab said.

The green LMP party criticised Orbán for seeing the next 15 years in terms of his own destiny and political career instead of dealing with the future and destiny of the nation. LMP’s co-leader accused the prime minister of ignoring the needs of Hungarians who live in deep poverty as well as people excluded from education and health care. He said it was high time to focus on issues that were crucial to the nation’s survival. He also said it was regrettable that Orbán had failed to address the issue of climate change

that would seriously affect the lives of Hungarians.

The Hungarian Liberals said “the country’s upward trajectory has been most put at risk by a prime minister who continues to pursue a policy of isolation ... fear and hatred”.

## **FIDESZ ‘PREPARED’ FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

Hungary’s ruling Fidesz “stands prepared” for the upcoming municipal elections, the party said after a meeting of its national board. Fidesz said it would field or support mayoral candidates in nearly 1,000 towns and villages with a combined population of some 8 million Hungarians. The national board also established that “the inaptitude of the opposition may compromise the future of Hungary’s municipalities”. “There are false and pretentious political deals behind the candidates” whom the opposition parties “deceitfully call joint candidates”, the statement said, and suggested that if those candidates won, “towns and villages would be the greatest losers”.

Hungary’s president set the date of Hungary’s 2019 local elections for October 13 earlier in the day.