

PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTI/György Varga

Red deer on a meadow in Zala county, southwest Hungary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opposition presser on direct funding for municipalities

PM Orbán addresses Fratelli d'Italia event in Rome

16th CineFest International Film Festival ends

Rail workers' unions present demands

TOP STORY

ÁDER: HUNGARY RELATIVELY SMALL POLLUTER

Hungary's responsibility in pollution is much smaller than that of large economies such as the United States, China or India, President János Áder said in an interview with public Kossuth Radio.

Speaking ahead of the UN climate summit in New York where he will represent Hungary, the president said that while it was "right" to review the challenges and responsibilities facing Hungary in fighting climate change, it was important to note that Hungary accounts for 0.00137% of the world's CO2 emissions, and 1% that of the EU's. Carbon emissions per capita in Hungary are well below the EU average, with Germany emitting twice and the US three and a half times as much per capita as Hungary, Áder said.

Hungary has reduced its emissions since 1990 by the same degree as Denmark, while emissions have risen in Spain, Austria and Ireland, he said. With the upgrade of the Paks nuclear plant, a tenfold growth in solar energy capacity and a phasing out of fossil fuel-based energy production, over 90% of electricity can be produced by carbon-free methods by 2030, Áder said. Speaking of the climate summit to be held between Sept. 21 and 23, Áder said it will be a policy-oriented debate focusing on declaring intentions and a readiness to act, but "there is no intention to sign an agreement".

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FINANCE MINISTER HAILS ROLE OF 'THRIVING BUSINESSES' IN HUNGARY ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Hungary is today among the fastest growing economies in the European Union, thanks to well-performing companies, the work of Hungarian employees and effective economic policy, Finance Minister Mihály Varga said at the inauguration of a corn mill in Karcag, in north-eastern Hungary.

The 1.8 billion forint (EUR 5.4m) investment, which created 35 jobs, has received a 500 million forint government grant, Varga noted. The plant is able to process 120 tonnes of corn daily, much of which will be exported. Varga said that for years, the Hungarian government's measures in tax policy, investment promotion and in cutting red tape contributed to boosting the competitiveness of Hungarian companies. The tax burden of companies fell to 39% in 2018 from 52-56% before 2010, he said. Hungary has access to over 12,000 billion forints in EU funding between 2014 and 2020, Varga noted. Some 2,554 billion forints will be used to fund the operative programme for economic development and innovation, one of the largest of its kind in the EU, he said.

PUBLIC WORKERS' UNIONS CALL NATIONWIDE STRIKE FOR OCT 10

The union of public service workers (MKKSZ) and the union of social sector

workers (SZAD) have called a nationwide strike for October 10, saying that the government had "failed to deliver on its promises and has deceived social sector workers". In a statement, the unions noted that last March the government had vowed to devise a wage convergence plan and create the legal conditions for the implementation of a collective bargaining agreement for social sector workers. Government representatives present at the spring strike talks had pledged to deliver on their promises by April 30 and June 30, they added. The unions said that because the government had "failed to meet either deadline or live up to any of its promises", they will now continue the strike they suspended back in March.

MKKSZ head Erzsébet Boros said after the March 14 strike that some 7,500 public employees had joined the work stoppage, with the majority being local council workers. Announcing that strike in January, she said the main reasons behind the problems facing public service workers were the sector's "unsustainable, disorganised and professionally unintelligible wage policy" and the "completely chaotic wage system". Government spokesman István Hollik declared that strike a "complete failure", calling it a "political move by the opposition".

OFFICIAL: MOST HUNGARIANS BACK GOV'T'S HUMANITARIAN POLICY

Two-thirds of Hungarians support the government's humanitarian policy, Tristan Azbej, the state secretary in

charge of aiding persecuted Christians, said, citing a fresh survey from the Nézőpont Institute. The survey's findings confirm that Hungarians are generous and sympathise with Christians living in far-away countries, Azbej, who is also in charge of the government's Hungary Helps humanitarian aid programme, told public broadcaster M1.

Altogether 65% of the survey's respondents said the persecution of Christians was a problem. The majority agreed that Hungary should provide significant aid to those around the world facing religious persecution. Hungary was the first country in the world to address the aiding of persecuted Christian communities at government level and to acknowledge that Christianity "is the most persecuted religion in the world today", the state secretary said. "This truth had been denied by the Western world and kept from international organisations, too," Azbej said.

"Since it's become clear that the lives of persecuted Christians don't matter to liberal politicians as much as the lives of others, the Hungarian government considers it a very important diplomatic task to get other countries to follow its example," he added. So far, Hungary has convinced the United States to join the cause and launch its own programme aimed at helping persecuted Christians in cooperation with Hungary, he said. It has also inspired Slovakia's parliament to adopt a resolution acknowledging the atrocities committed against persecuted Christians and calling on the government to launch an aid scheme.

ORBÁN TO ADDRESS FRATELLI D'ITALIA EVENT IN ROME

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán will travel to Rome on Saturday where he will address an event of the Fratelli d'Italia (FdI) party, the prime minister's press chief has said. Orbán has been invited by party leader Giorgia Meloni, with whom he will hold talks on the sidelines of the event, Bertalan Havasi said. Orbán will speak of a Europe of people and nations, he said. The event dubbed Atreju was originally organised by FdI's youth arm as a political and cultural conference and has been held every year in Rome since 1998.

STATE SECY HAS BUSINESS TALKS IN EGYPT

Levente Magyar, state secretary at the foreign ministry, met several ministers of the Egyptian government for business talks in Cairo. Speaking to MTI by phone, the official said that the talks had focused on a deal under which Hungary and Russia would supply 1,300 railway carriages worth one billion euros to Egypt, as well as an investment project by Hungary's Tungsram in Egypt. Concerning the latter project, Magyar said that Tungsram was planning to make several million lamps in cooperation with Egypt's HOI group.

During his Cairo visit, the state secretary met Investment Minister Sahar Nasr, Transport Minister Kamel Wazir, as well as Hisham Tawfik, Egypt's privatisation minister. Magyar also opened a business forum attended by 22 Hungarian and 70 Egyptian companies.

FDI INCOME IN HUNGARY REACHES EUR 9.243 BN IN 2018

Foreign direct investment (FDI) income in Hungary came to 9.243 billion euros last year, annual data published by the National Bank of Hungary (NBH) show. The total comprised 5.932 billion euros of reinvested earnings, 3.180 billion euros of dividends and 131 million euros of interest. FDI was down slightly from 9.388 billion euros in 2017. FDI income abroad reached 1,599 billion euros in 2018 and comprised 787 million euros of reinvested earnings and 832 euros of dividends. The FDI position in Hungary came to 83.163 billion euros last year. The FDI position abroad stood at 26.823 billion euros.

SAUSAGE MAKER PAP INAUGURATES HUF 325 M INVESTMENT

Hungarian sausage maker Pap Kolbászműhely inaugurated a 325 million forint (EUR 976,000)

investment at its base in Gödöllő, on the outskirts of Budapest. The company was awarded a 103 million forint European Union grant for the project that created 14 jobs, Hungarian Agriculture Minister István Nagy said at the event. Owner Krisztián Pap said the company makes pork, beef and venison sausage using traditional methods. With an annual output of 280 tonnes, Pap Kolbászműhely targets a revenue of 550 million forints next year.

RICHTER OSTEOPOROSIS DRUG APPROVED IN JAPAN

Hungarian drug maker Gedeon Richter said Japanese authorities cleared the biosimilar teriparatide, developed by its German joint venture Richter Helm BioTec, for the treatment of osteoporosis. Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare issued marketing authorisation for the drug to Richter's local licence partner Mochida Pharmaceutical. The European Commission approved teriparatide in January 2017 and the product was launched in Europe, under the brand Terrosa, in August 2019, after the patent of the reference product expired.