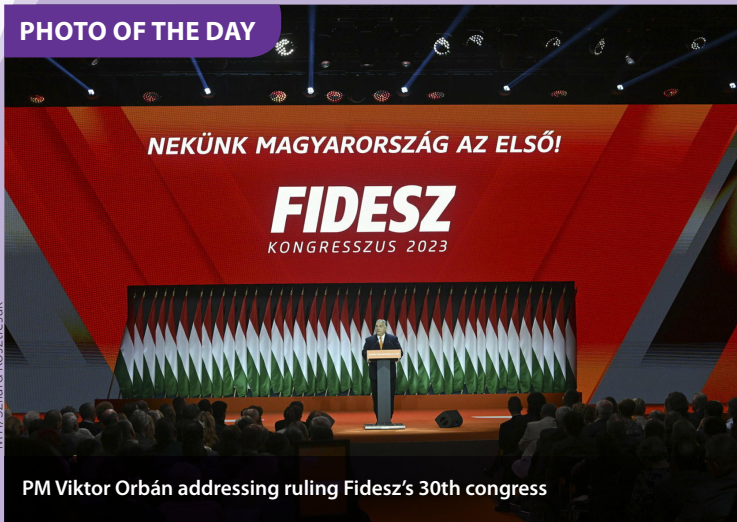


PHOTO OF THE DAY



PM Viktor Orbán addressing ruling Fidesz's 30th congress

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plenary session of parliament

Events connected to the wars in Ukraine, Israel

European Parliament holds plenary session

TOP STORY

HUNGARY 'TO DEFEND ITSELF WITH ALL ITS MIGHT'

Hungary will fight and defend itself with all its might, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, the freshly re-elected leader of ruling Fidesz, told the 30th party congress on Saturday.

"We will reject the crazy ideas of Brussels bureaucrats, we will reject migrant invasion, gender propaganda, the mirages of war, Ukraine's unprepared EU membership, the green ideologies bordering on communism and Jacobinism," Orbán said. "We will protect ourselves from foreign attempts to undermine our sovereignty, even against the Soros empire attacking from Washington and Brussels simultaneously". "We must say no to the model of Europe pushed by Brussels," Orbán said, adding it was unsustainable and had no future. "Brussels is ruining Europe and leading it to its death, and puts a new nail in its coffin every day." Orbán said the EU's end was nigh if things went on the way they had been. "Our job, our calling, is to stop that from happening." Hungary's interest is that the EU, "that was so hard to put together", stay together, Orbán said. Hungary must change the EU rather than leave it, "but that is only possible with radical change in Brussels," he said. If things continued like this, the bloc would not explode, fall apart or collapse, but simply slide apart, Orbán said.

ORBÁN: HUNGARY HAS EUROPEAN 'COUNTER- MODEL'

Hungarians have developed a "European counter-model" of their own based on the principles of zero migration, a work-based economy, full employment, strong families, low taxes and a "sensible green transition", Prime Minister Viktor Orbán told the 30th congress of ruling Fidesz. Today, neither the EU nor member states carry out their own decisions, the prime minister said, arguing that the European Commission and the European Parliament were "unabashedly circumventing their own rules". What was "really worrying", he said, was that "everyone has adapted to this and got used to it". Brussels's Europe model is old, while the world has renewed itself and gained fresh momentum, he said. While self-defence and "being in opposition" had often prompted Hungary to say "no", "we don't want to get stuck in the role of a constantly whining Mr. No or Herr Nein", he said. Hungary's strength is nurtured by "our plan, our European counter-model", he said. The Hungarian model is visible and well-known due to the frequent attacks levelled at it, he said. "It is also increasingly envied, although the official communication must be different ... the French, the Germans and the Italians would give half their lives to have a migrant-free country again." Hungary's "zero-migration

policy" guaranteed that "only those we allow to enter may be here", the prime minister said. "Hungary is the most secure country in Europe right now, which is especially clear in light of the pro-terror conflicts on the streets in western Europe." The "Hungarian model" is based on a work-based economy, strong families, a united nation, falling debt, "investments arriving in droves", trade and cooperation with all countries in the world, a "sensible" green transition, and bringing cutting-edge technology to Hungary, he said.

ORBÁN: GREEN ENERGY FUTURE OF HUNGARIAN ECONOMY

The future of the Hungarian economy is being decided right now because the locations of Europe's green industry hubs are also being decided now, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán told ruling Fidesz's 30th party congress, adding that this required major private investment. Hungary today receives more recognition from the politically more critical international green organisations than from the Hungarian green parties, he said. Hungary's green policy is not based on ideology or partisanship, the prime minister said, adding that the government said "yes to green energy but no to green ideology". He said he knew Hungary to be a country that "doesn't believe in colourful stories". "We couldn't stomach the brown stories, either, which were dominated by race and

blood, or the red stories dominated by the proletariat and class conflict," he said. "We also couldn't stomach the rainbow-coloured stories, and now we're suspicious of the poison green stories in which nature gets revenge and takes back power. We, Hungarians simply want a clean, healthy and natural world according to the order of creation."

Orbán said Hungary had to produce and store green energy, adding that the latter capability would be the key to success. Hungarians, he said, had a chance to become the technological leaders of a new era in the global economy. "We haven't had an opportunity like this in 150 years," the prime minister said. "All the conditions for success are in place; all we need are brave and well-prepared leaders at the national and local levels." "We're making Hungary the meeting point for the most advanced Eastern and Western technology," he said. This, he added, was the reason why the country was today considered a "champion of connectivity, green energy and new industrial technologies". This strategy is what will propel the Hungarian economy upward in the next 15-20 years, ensure that everyone has jobs and attract partner vocational schools and universities, Orbán said. "We will be strong, rich and green," he added.

Meanwhile, the prime minister said the government was "a ninja government, because we plan for the enemy, rather than us, to be the one on the ground after the mission, allowing us to return to base safe and

sound". The government has to be brave and capable of taking action, Orbán said. It must not back away in the face of unexpected moves, and must know that only disciplined and precise operations can be successful against an overpowering opponent, he added. Orbán said the first such operation would be the new National Consultation public survey. The second, he added, would be next year's European Parliament Election. "We must achieve a breakthrough in Brussels and repel the Gyurcsányists," he said. The prime minister highlighted the local elections as the third key operation. "We have to win both the European and local council elections," Orbán said.

ORBÁN: HUNGARY CAN'T BE SOLD OUT WITH IMPUNITY

The country cannot be sold out for money with impunity, which is why it is crucial to establish the rules of protecting Hungary's sovereignty, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said after being re-elected the leader of ruling Fidesz. "We can't just move past the proven fact -- which has also been admitted by the left -- that foreign states, organisations and Brussels itself gave money to the left to defeat Fidesz and the Christian Democrats," he said. Foreigners "wanted to buy the future Hungarian government, and with it, the country, by the kilo", the prime minister said. "Can the country be sold out for money with

impunity?" Orbán asked, adding: "This obviously can't stay like this". "We have to fix this, and we expect our MPs to draw up the rules for the protection of Hungary's sovereignty, all the way up to the constitution," he said. "A lot has happened since the elections, we won a resounding victory," he said. "The entire left wing ... worked together against us, and collected all the resources of the western [European] left, money, media, politicians, and governments from the US Democrats to the Ukrainian government". "Similarly to what happened a month ago in Poland," he added. But Hungary started preparing earlier and "knew the strength of our opponents better since the ... spider, the puppeteer is a Hungarian: George Soros and his network."

Orbán said the proven fact that foreign states and organisations, "even Brussels itself gave money to have us defeated" must not be forgotten. Funding the campaign of the opposition leader in last year's campaign, Péter Márki-Zay, "was the worst investment in Uncle George's life," he said, referring to American financier George Soros.

ORBÁN: HUNGARY WILL HAVE NEW MOMENTUM, SIGNIFICANT GROWTH BY EUROPEAN STANDARDS

The government has achieved the goals it has set for itself, allowing Hungary to gain new momentum and achieve significant growth even

by European standards, ensure higher incomes and a higher minimum wage, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán told ruling Fidesz's 30th congress. The past two years have proven more difficult than ever due to the Russia-Ukraine war, the related sanctions, the energy crisis and galloping inflation, Orbán said. Despite the "unprecedented pressure from the West", Hungary has managed to stay out of the war, he said, adding that the country's energy supply was secure despite sanctions on oil and gas, while caps on utility bills, jobs and family benefits had been protected. "I report that we've achieved the goals we had set," Orbán said. He said the government had thwarted Brussels's "attempts at financial blackmail", and the economy was and would continue growing. "But we will, of course, collect those couple of euros they owe us," he added. "Even those who voted against us are doing well with us in government," the prime minister said.

ORBÁN RE-ELECTED FIDESZ LEADER

The 30th congress of ruling Fidesz re-elected Prime Minister Viktor Orbán as the party's leader on Saturday. In his speech to the congress, Orbán said it was an "honour" to be given the mandate to lead the "most successful political community of the country, of Europe". Orbán, who has been leading Fidesz since 2003 without interruption, said trust was always an honour, even after so many years. His last mandate two years ago, he said, had been to

lead Fidesz and KDNP to victory in the elections and to form a government that would continue building a strong and sovereign Hungary. "We are in the middle of that cycle ... we don't change horses midway, especially if they pull in the right direction and are still going strong. I am happy to report to congress: the government and I are both going strong, definitely strong enough to manage the remaining two-and-a-half years." Regarding the next congress in 2025, he said: "I continue to be in my best years, and plan to remain so in 2025."

The congress elected as deputy party leaders Gábor Kubatov, Szilárd Németh, Lajos Kósa and MEP Kinga Gál.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: HUNGARY NATIONAL INTEREST, COMMON SENSE COINCIDE

Hungary's government will not give up national interests or the use of common sense, especially since "the two coincide", the minister of foreign affairs and trade told ruling Fidesz's 30th party congress on Saturday. The past four years have seen two great upheavals in the world, bringing crises, conflicts and wars, "but also resulting in the majority of the European political elite practically losing their common sense", Péter Szijjártó said. He said some had contracted "war psychosis and think that weapons deliveries will create peace". "Others take it as a personal slight if a man takes a woman's hand in public ... yet others are offended that there isn't

a welcoming sign every 50 meters on the green border," he said. The European elite is also trying to force those "crazy ideas" on everyone, he said. "With some, they use a phone call, a mean glance, an army of NGOs or media attacks."

But Hungary "cannot be brought to its knees ... not even if they invest tens of millions into the opposition," he said. As a neighbour of Ukraine, Hungary can see clearly that brokering peace is the only way to save lives, and the circumstances for peace talks are "deteriorating day by day", he said. "Those bringing weapons into our neighbourhood are prolonging the war. The longer the war, the more the casualties and the greater the destruction." As a millennium-old Christian country, Hungary also "knows that nations are based on families, and a family consists of a father, a mother and children". "And they can't withhold so many billions of euros we are entitled to that we allow NGOs into schools to explain to boys that they can wear girls' clothes even though they're boys," he said.

Regarding migration, Szijjártó said the Hungarian authorities had thwarted 275,000 attempts of illegal entry on the border last year. "We know that military-trained would-be terrorists who shoot at our border patrols, storm our border fence and ignore our rules will not bring progress to Europe," Szijjártó said. "We don't need people like that in Europe, especially not in Hungary, and we will never allow them to enter Hungary, no

matter the quotas accepted." "Besides standing up for peace, our families, the protection of our children and our country, we will also reject the pressure of the liberal mainstream," he said. Hungary will have to be ready for intensifying attacks, and the government will need the strength represented by Fidesz, "Europe's strongest party family," he said.

FINMIN: HUNGARY BACK ON GROWTH PATH

Hungary has returned to a path of growth in spite of the Russia-Ukraine war, the ongoing "political attacks from Brussels and the pressure from Washington", Finance Minister Mihály Varga told the 30th congress of Hungary's ruling Fidesz party on Saturday. Hungary was the fastest growing European Union member state in 2019, and though its growth was broken by the pandemic and the subsequent period, "thanks to the healthy structure of the economy and falling global energy prices, we're back on a path of growth", Varga said, adding that "our economic outlook can propel us to the top again."

Citing the European Commission's Autumn Economic Forecast released this week, Varga said Hungary was projected to be among the top third of EU countries in terms of growth in 2024, and was set to be the fastest-growing member state in 2025. He said the then-incoming government of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán had inherited a "bankrupt" country in

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2010, and because the roadmap offered by Brussels would have only led to more austerity and a loss of competitiveness, the government carved its own path. That new path led to rising employment, Varga said, noting that the number of employed had risen to 4.1 million from 3.7 million, while the jobless rate had been cut from 12% to 4%. “We’re practically at full employment,” he said. The government, he said, had also reworked the structure of the economy and taken a step towards a demographic turnaround by overhauling the tax system and cutting taxes.

“We built the world’s strongest family benefit system,” the minister said. Regarding the public debt, Varga noted that it had fallen from 80% to 65% by the start of the pandemic, and was now on a downward trend again. The government also halved the ratio of foreign currency in the country’s debt and increased the share of domestic financing of the national debt to 20%, he said. Hungary has had the highest investment rate in the EU for several years and ranks ninth globally in economic complexity, Varga said.

DEPT PM: PROTECTION OF CHRISTIAN CIVILISATION, NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY ‘OUR PRIMARY TASK’

The protection of Christian civilisation and national sovereignty remains a primary task, Deputy Prime Minister

Zsolt Semjén, the head of junior ruling KDNP, said at the 30th Fidesz congress on Saturday. Greeting attendees on behalf of all sister organisations, Semjén said: “We interpret ourselves as parts of Hungarian history and Hungary’s mission in this present day and age.”

The foundation of that is St Stephen, Hungary’s first king, “who chose Christian civilisation without bowing to the Byzantine Empire or the Holy Roman Empire,” he said. Today’s challenges are similar as the protection of Christian civilisation and national sovereignty remains a primary task, he said. Semjén noted that the Christian Democrat (KDNP) party is marking its 79th anniversary in the coming days. KDNP is the only historical party on the Hungarian political spectrum, and the only one founded on a worldview, he said.

KDNP has also been “a partner of every one of Viktor Orbán’s governments in building the country”, he said. Christian parties must all face the dilemma of whether they should remain faithful to the teachings of historical churches, often at the risk of clashing with public tastes and losing the opportunity to govern and shape the country, he said. Giving in to “the mainstream” and abandoning authentic Christianity may retain votes, “but losing ourselves brings about losing spiritual ground and then votes, as we can see in western Europe”. “Our response, the Fidesz-KDNP alliance, is one of the most successful ones in Hungarian history and the European

Union,” Semjén said. It has brought about a “political miracle” of four two-thirds majorities in parliament, he said.

Hunor Kelemen of Romania’s ethnic Hungarian RMDSZ hailed the Orbán government’s policies for Hungarians across the borders as a “Copernican twist” that had finally brought Hungary and Hungarians living across the borders on the same side. “After 100 years, it wasn’t Hungary on one side and Hungarian minorities across the borders on the other but Hungarians on either side of the border, entitled to a citizenship, government support and shared responsibility,” he said. The “Carpathian Basin integration” is not only a national treasure but also an example “showing us the right way”, Kelemen said.

GULYÁS: FIDESZ COULD CONTRIBUTE TO EUROPE’S ‘RIGHTWARD TURN’

Hungary will contribute to a “rightward turn in Europe” if it elects as few “leftist legionnaires” as possible to the European Parliament next year, the head of the Prime Minister’s Office told the 30th congress of ruling Fidesz on Saturday. While Fidesz “won big” at the last EP election, “foreign legionnaires are still too many”, Gergely Gulyás said. Opposition lawmakers cannot be counted on as “they are happy to accept pay and support from elsewhere, too”. Hungary is not getting what it is entitled to because the leftist parties “do everything in their power to stop education and health care from

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receiving additional funding”, Gulyás said. He insisted leftist lawmakers received “enormous wages ... and were happy to accept unlawful foreign campaign funding, too”.

“Unless we want to dance to Brussels’ tune”, Hungary must send MEPs to Brussels who will reject all forms of migration, and stand up for the security and border protection of Hungary and see the country’s sovereignty as a priority, and will raise their voices for Hungarian interests in Europe, he said. Those MEPs will have to be able to stand up for the country unequivocally in a hostile environment, he said. “Those who agree with that have only one choice. Only Fidesz instead of the legionnaires!”

Csaba Dömötör, a state secretary of the Prime Minister’s Office, said foreign powers had tried to interfere with Hungarian issues many times. Similar powers would now “send the country to war, open the gates to foreigners and attack green investments, he said. “This is no country for agents, those working against their own country have no majority here, and will never have one,” he said. “This is the country of Hungarians who will defend it with strength, patience, brains and especially with a stubborn love of the homeland,” he said. An important point of defence will be the EP elections next year, Dömötör said. “The victory there must be so big it will be heard in every office and meeting room where they tried to decide about Hungarians without asking them.”

KÖVÉR: ‘THIS IS OUR COUNTRY AND WE WILL PRESERVE IT’

Addressing the 30th congress of Hungary’s ruling Fidesz party on Saturday, Speaker of Parliament László Kövér said: “This is our country, and we will preserve it for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.” Assessing the events of the two years since Fidesz’s last congress, Kövér noted the outbreak of the war between Russia and Ukraine, and the 11 sanctions packages approved by the European Union in response. He said the sanctions had ended up hurting the European economy rather than the Russian, and had also failed to bring an end to the conflict, “much to the delight of those with arms and oil business interests”. He said that in response to the formation of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán’s fifth government, “the federalists in Brussels are trying to outsource the country’s independent judiciary ... to all kinds of agencies while trying to rob us of our money”. The EU has failed to integrate either Türkiye or any of the Western Balkan countries awaiting membership, and “there’s an inpouring of millions of conquerors disguised as refugees”, Kövér said. Meanwhile, he added, Europe was two years closer “to its own elimination”. “A golden age has come to an end, being replaced by inflation and economic and income

contraction,” the speaker said. At the same time, employment and investments are rising, giving hope for the start of a new boom period, he added. “We haven’t got any younger, but we are, perhaps, happier, and possibly even a bit wiser,” Kövér said.

DEUTSCH: ‘BRUSSELS BUREAUCRATS BECOMING FANATICAL WAR AGITATORS’

It is “shocking, outrageous and painful” to see every day that “the bureaucrats of the European Union which began as a peace project are becoming fanatical war agitators”, Tamás Deutsch, an MEP of Hungary’s ruling Fidesz, told the party’s 30th congress on Saturday. The EU’s mission is to guarantee the peace of the hundreds of millions of people living in Europe and its neighbourhood, Deutsch said. But while many are dying in the war in Ukraine, “every MEP of the Hungarian dollar left in Brussels is pushing for escalating the war and more and more weapons deliveries”, he added. Hungary’s left-wing MEPs, he said, wanted the country to be dragged into the conflict. “But no matter how strong the headwind, we’ll stay out of this war and represent a policy of peace,” he said.

Meanwhile, Deutsch said that “despite all the attacks from Brussels”, Hungary had for years

been successful in protecting its southern borders, and in doing so, the EU as well. The Hungarian authorities have prevented the entry of more than 230,000 illegal migrants so far this year, and have prevented more than a million illegal entries since 2015, he said. He said the MEPs of the “Hungarian dollar left” were “backstabbing Hungarians” because Hungarians had declared in a referendum that “only we can decide whom we want to live together with”.

Deutsch said Brussels bureaucrats also wanted to force Hungary to scrap its child protection law “so that gender sensitivity commandos can roam free in Hungarian kindergartens and schools”. “We understand the message: we’ll be tightening the child protection law,” Deutsch said.

On another subject, he said the “Brussels bureaucracy” was unlawfully withholding the funds owed to Hungary for political reasons. “They don’t like the decisions we’ve been making since 2010,” he said, insisting that “[Democratic Coalition leader] Ferenc Gyurcsány and the comrades of the dollar left” were the ones behind the “politically extortionate terms they want to force on Hungary”. Deutsch said change was needed in both Brussels in Hungary, arguing that it was “inconceivable” that Hungarian MEPs should be allowed to manoeuvre against their own country in the future.

KOC SIS: ‘WE MUST LEAVE BEHIND A STRONGER, MORE PROTECTED AND BETTER COUNTRY’

Addressing the 30th congress of Hungary’s ruling Fidesz in Budapest on Saturday, Máté Kocsis, the party’s parliamentary group leader, said Fidesz’s aim was to “leave behind a stronger, more protected and better country than the one we inherited”. Kocsis congratulated Fidesz on its victory in the 2022 general election, hailing its defeat of “every chapter of [Democratic Coalition leader Ferenc] Gyurcsány’s party”. Speaking about the opposition, he said “Ferenc Gyurcsány’s people ... have done everything possible against their homeland in Brussels”. He said the opposition had “tried getting into power using the money of billionaires, and to this day we don’t know what they promised in return for the dollars [they were donated]”. The “members of the dollar left”, he said, “regularly ignore Hungarian interests while following foreign orders in domestic politics”. “They really do dance to the tune of [US financier George] Soros and the Brussels elite,” he added. “We will protect our country’s sovereignty, we will act against any attempted foreign influence operation, even amending the relevant laws,” Kocsis said. The protection of Hungary’s sovereignty will be guaranteed by the Fundamental Law, all entities contesting elections will be subject

to the same rules, and accepting foreign campaign donations will be punishable by up to three years in prison, he said.

BÓKA: EU RULES SHOULD APPLY TO INSTITUTIONS, TOO

The Hungarian government accepts the European community’s fundamental rules but expects the EU’s institutions to abide with them, too, János Bóka, the EU affairs minister, told a conference in Budapest on Friday. Opening the conference dubbed “From the Pan-European Idea to the Maastricht Treaty” organised by the Habsburg Ottó Foundation and the National Public Service University, the minister said Hungary would want to “stay active” in formulating the rules of the EU. Bóka reviewed the history of European integration and paid tribute to Otto von Habsburg, as “one of the founding fathers of a united Europe”. He noted the importance of subsidiarity and said “decisions should be made at the level closest to the people”, adding that “European laws are pointless unless they are supported at the local level.” “Today it often causes friction as the EU institutions almost always feel a need to intervene, while the governments of member states see such a necessity much less often”. “A structure should not be built by starting with the roof -- as preferred by European bureaucrats -- but the other way round, from the foundations to the top; this is the best

way to ensure, even in a larger unity, the freedom of the individual," the minister said.

EU AFFAIRS MINISTER CALLS HUNGARY EU MEMBERSHIP UNQUESTIONABLE

Hungary's EU membership is not a question, the EU could be a very useful platform for cooperation, but rather than strengthening the member states "what we see is the European Commission turning into a political commission", EU affairs Minister János Bóka said in an interview published by Austrian daily Kurier. Speaking about the funds withheld from Hungary, Bóka called the issue politically motivated, insisting that there was no legal ground of the rule of law mechanism which therefore should have been closed against the country long ago. Asked about Hungary's veto on Brussels starting accession talks with Ukraine, Bóka said that Ukraine had not met all of the seven criteria of being granted a candidate status. Concerning immigration, the minister referred to "two pillars" of Hungary's position which include the protection of the EU's external borders and a regime requiring the processing of asylum applications outside the EU. In connection with Gaza, Bóka said Hungary's position was in line with that of the EU which is that states fighting against terrorism have the right to self-defence and the hostages must be released immediately and unconditionally.

JUSTICE MINISTER HAS TALKS WITH VIETNAMESE PM

Justice Minister Bence Tuzson met in Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh during an official visit. Tuzson said on Facebook on Friday that their talks focused on enhancing bilateral legal cooperation. "In a changing world enhancing legal competitiveness is crucial for countries," Tuzson said, and underlined the importance of cutting red tape. At the talks, Tuzson extended an invitation to the Vietnamese prime minister from Prime Minister Viktor Orbán to visit Hungary.

MEP ASKING EC ABOUT ALEX SOROS TALKS IN UKRAINE

Hungary's ruling Fidesz will ask the European Commission in writing about recent talks by George Soros' son with Ukrainian leaders about Ukraine's EU accession, MEP Balázs Hidvéghi said on Friday. Referring to photos published by Alex Soros, Hidvéghi said in a video that "while there is a Ukrainian flag behind the Ukrainian prime minister, Alex Soros is standing in front of an EU flag, creating the obvious impression that Soros was having talks on behalf of the EU". "It is just not right that an American businessman, not elected by anyone, should have talks with Ukrainian government members about that country's EU membership," he said. Hidvéghi also suggested that

"members of the EC have regular consultations with the new leader of the Soros network."

PRESIDENT NOVÁK MARKS BUDAPEST'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Marking Budapest's 150th anniversary, President Katalin Novák said on Friday that with the unification of the historical parts of the city 150 years ago not only a city was born, but "the Hungarian nation's heart made its first beat". "The heart of our more than thousand-year-old state is but 150 years old: this heart lends strength to the nation to survive and grow," the president told a gala evening. "From this point of view Budapest looks like a young, not yet adolescent city, with a high perspective and a long future," she said.

The president noted the destruction in Budapest during the first and the second world war, as well as that of the failed anti-Soviet revolution in 1956 and changes of the political regime. She said that the city "has proved its vitality and ability for renewal ... it is a city of freedom, which has always been home to alternative art movements and thinking different from the mainstream, and different political ideologies".

Budapest is "the home and the island of peace and security, which is an especially valued asset in a turbulent world, in a world where millions of people are afraid to leave home", the president said. Novák said

Hungary's capital city should become a place which can compete with other cities in the world in terms of security and opportunities, "a place for all Hungarians to be proud of".

BUDAPEST MAYOR MARKS CITY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Friends of Budapest agree on the indisputable assertion that Budapest is the nation's capital, Gergely Karácsony, the city's mayor, said at a gala evening at Vígyszínház marking the 150th anniversary of Budapest's unification, late on Friday. Budapest is "unshakable in its Hungarianness", Karácsony said, adding that over the last 150 years, the capital had also earned the right to be called "Hungarian and European". He said "the first among the historical truths" about Budapest was that the city had been founded not out of an interest of power, but in spite of it. And even today, he said, this was how the capital was striving to earn its future. "This city is indestructible," Karácsony said. "Some cities are forever, like Rome, and some cities always rise again, like Budapest," the mayor said, noting that Budapest had been one of the most often besieged cities in the world, with sixteen attempts made to conquer it.

Budapest is a city that survives and can adapt, but is also capable of carrying out revolutions, Karácsony said. The mayor said Budapest bore a "double burden" for the WWI Trianon Peace Treaty. Not only was it labelled the "guilty city", but it's mere existence

calls attention to the tragedy of Hungarian territory being ceded to neighbouring countries because it is "too big, too diverse and too rich compared with the country that had been tormented and deprived of cultural diversity", he said.

Karácsony said Budapest was not just the nation's capital, but also the driving force of the country's economy and "the heart of its cultural point of view". Budapest belongs to its residents and all those who are part of the nation, either within or beyond the border, he said. "Another truth of Budapest is that there's no such thing as 'Budapest or the countryside'," Karácsony said. "There's only Budapest and the countryside, our shared homeland." There can be no diverse and free Budapest without a diverse and free local council, Karácsony said, adding that it was not the right or the left, but Budapest residents who held power in the city. "In this city, everyone is free to love their homeland the way they want," Karácsony said. "But we know that unity is only possible if no one is being told in the name of any ideology how they ought to love the homeland," he said.

SZIJJÁRTÓ: CHINESE AUTOMOTIVE COMPANY PLANS HUF 39 BN INVESTMENT IN HUNGARY

Chinese automotive industry company Zhejiang Shuanghuan Driveline will set up a 39 billion

forint (EUR 103m) electric vehicle parts plant in Jászfényszaru, in eastern Hungary, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó announced at the site on Friday. The government is supporting the investment, which will create 450 jobs, with 7 billion forints, Szijjártó said. Production will start in Q1 2024, he added. Zhejiang Shuanghuan Driveline will become market leader in Europe in the production of gears and shafts for electric motors, he said. "Here's another Chinese supplier that will make deliveries to big Western companies, such as Tesla, Volvo and Scania. It is evident from this how silly and potentially harmful European politicians' talk of the need for decoupling the Chinese and European economies is," Szijjártó said. "Cooperating with China isn't the danger, a lack of cooperation with China is," he added.

CLOSE TO 10,000 UKRAINIAN CITIZENS ENTER HUNGARY ON SATURDAY

Fully 5,225 Ukrainian citizens entered Hungary at the Ukraine-Hungary border on Saturday, while 4,599 came to the country via Romania, according to the national police headquarters (ORFK). Police issued temporary residence permits valid for 30 days to 55 people, ORFK said on Sunday.

