

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Chinese electric car maker BYD to build its first European plant in Szeged (S)

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TOP STORY

BYD TO BUILD FIRST EUROPEAN PLANT IN HUNGARY

Chinese electric car maker BYD will build its first plant in Europe in Szeged, in southern Hungary, the minister of foreign affairs and trade said on Friday.

The foreign ministry quoted Péter Szijjártó as calling the project “one of the most significant investments in the history of Hungary’s economy creating thousands of jobs”. The new plant will be Hungary’s sixth car producer, he added. The Hungarian government will provide a grant to assist the project, Szijjártó said, but added that the exact amount would not be disclosed before the European Commission granted its consent. The new project will further strengthen the Hungarian economy, “the foundations for long-term growth, and Hungary’s position in the global transition to electric cars”, the minister said. In a separate statement, the municipal council of Szeged said the plant would be built at the site of a 300-hectare industrial park on the outskirts of the city. BYD will undertake the entire manufacturing process, with the exception of battery production, in Szeged, it added. BYD picked Szeged because of its international reputation in research, its outstanding infrastructure, favourable location and green approach, the city council said.

ORBÁN: 'SOROS'S PEOPLE BLACKMAILING EC TO WITHHOLD MONEY FROM HUNGARY'

"The people of George Soros keep blackmailing the European Commission to withhold money from Hungary because they want Ukraine to get that money," Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said late on Thursday. The money Hungary is entitled to amounts to 32 billion euros overall, Orbán said in an interview to commercial Hír TV. "Hungary has now collected 10 out of the 32 billion, but we need to get the remaining 22 billion," he said, adding that there was a "great likelihood" that the 22 billion euros "could be considered as a resource secured". "If this money is sent to Ukraine, and if it goes like the US secretary of state has said, 90% of the total landing with American companies, then it is not such a bad deal for them," he said. The current "loud wailing" has been triggered by "the total amount having diminished by 10 billion euros, which the EC had to give to Hungary", he added.

Concerning the EU, Orbán said Hungary did not want to leave the community because its basic principles were good, but it "wants to take over political control in Brussels, it wants to occupy the EU". He said the cooperation of European people, the common market, and "combining each other's strengths while attending to each other's

weaknesses" were good ideas that could serve Hungary's interests well. At the same time, he said there was no need to establish a "superstate" that would treat its members as "provinces". "We don't need a Brussels like that, but one that supports the nations' self-respect and sovereignty and allows countries to decide how they want to live depending on their own cultural traditions," he said. "One that controls the market but does not want to say how a Pole, a Hungarian, or a Portuguese should live," he added.

"The upcoming European Parliament elections should be won and political control in Brussels should be taken over," he said. Decision-makers in Brussels "think that the era of nations is over" and the EU should operate as a "new, united superstate", he said. "They also think that the Hungarian concept of the family ... is Palaeolithic and the world is about same-sex marriages and live experiments of sex change," Orbán said. According to the prime minister "they think it is good if Europe's borders are not protected ... and all the needy of the world should come to Europe, and mix with indigenous peoples to create a new civilisation," he added. The EU has in recent years "weakened and lost its ability to act ... it has become infinitely bureaucratic, cumbersome, and divided ... that is the explanation why it has not yet given membership to the countries of the Western Balkans, though their accession would be geographically justified," Orbán said.

On the subject of cooperation with China, Orbán said "there is a long queue of EU members striving to do business with China, Vietnam, and Russia ... they are attacking us because they want to leave us out, they don't want competition". It is in Hungary's interest to offer an opportunity "for the East and the West to meet on its territory and in its culture ... even if Hungary is an EU and NATO member ... we must be a bridge", Orbán said. Concerning EU aid to Ukraine, Orbán said "we can talk about it, since that country has been attacked and has serious problems, and though it has not treated [ethnic] Hungarians well, even tormented them, in a situation like this they could still be given financial aid". He added, however, that "it is not clear why we should make a decision on 50 billion euros for four years in advance, when we do not know what will happen on the frontlines even in two months' time".

HIDVÉGHİ: TUSK 'TRAMPLING OVER' RULE OF LAW IN POLAND

Ruling Fidesz MEP Balázs Hidvéghi said on Friday that recent developments in Poland had been "gruesome", with the new liberal government of Donald Tusk "trampling over" the rule of law. Citing the Polish culture minister's decision to dismiss executives from the state media company, Hidvéghi told daily Magyar Nemzet that it was an unconcealed attempt to trample on the freedom of opinion,

"demonstrating how twisted left-liberal politics have become". "This is unacceptable in a democratic state based on the rule of law, it goes against all written and unwritten rules, and no election victory authorises such practices," he added. He said it should also be noted that the measures had been taken by a coalition that in recent years continually criticised the PiS government and Hungary citing the rule of law. Hidvéghi said there were no reactions from Brussels so far, which was "no surprise" considering the "double standards and political cynicism ruling in Brussels".

MI HAZÁNK AGAINST 'HUNGARIAN WORKERS GETTING REPLACED WITH FOREIGNERS'

Opposition Mi Hazánk labour expert János Lantos condemned on Friday that "Hungarian workers are getting fired and replaced with foreigners" throughout the country. He told a press conference that government claims about foreigners only getting employed for jobs that cannot be filled by Hungarians were untrue. He added that multinationals were "importing masses of guest workers in an organised way to Hungary". "In practice, masses of Hungarian

workers get fired and anti-Hungarian discrimination is evolving," he said. He added that Hungarians were becoming "second-rate employees", with many companies employing them only as rent workers. Lantos called for making it mandatory for labour hire agencies to ensure the same rights to their employees as to those "employed in the traditional way".

OVER 12,000 UKRAINIAN CITIZENS ENTER HUNGARY ON THURSDAY

Fully 6,995 Ukrainian citizens entered Hungary at the Ukraine-Hungary border on Thursday, while 5,086 came to the country via Romania, according to the national police headquarters (ORFK). Police issued temporary residence permits valid for 30 days to 81 people, ORFK said on Friday.

HUNGARY TRADE SURPLUS EUR 1.003 BN IN OCTOBER

Hungary's trade surplus reached 1.003 billion euros in October, narrowing from 1.340 billion euros in the previous month, the Central Statistical Office (KSH) said in a second reading of data on Friday. Exports edged up by an annual 1.1% to 12.771 billion euros, after falling for two months. Imports

dropped by 13.2% to 11.768 billion euros, declining for the seventh month in a row. Trade with other European Union member states accounted for 77% of Hungary's exports and 70% of its imports during the month. Hungary's terms of trade improved by 9.7% during the period as the forint firmed 7.9% to the euro and 14% against the dollar. In January-October, Hungary's exports increased by 6.6% year-on-year to 125.635 billion euros, while imports fell by 6.1% to 117.706 billion euros. The trade surplus reached 7.929 billion euros.

BALANCE ON BABY BOND ACCOUNTS AROUND HUF 270 BN

Savings on more than 340,000 baby bond accounts now reach around 270 billion forints (EUR 704.7m), state secretary for families Ágnes Hornung said on Friday. So far this year, around 37,300 baby bond accounts have been opened, Hornung said. New parents who open a baby bond account for their child get a 42,500 forint start-of-life subsidy and may buy more of the securities until the child turns 18. The bonds pay a 3% premium over inflation. Additionally, the government offers a 10% top-up for additional purchases, up to a threshold.