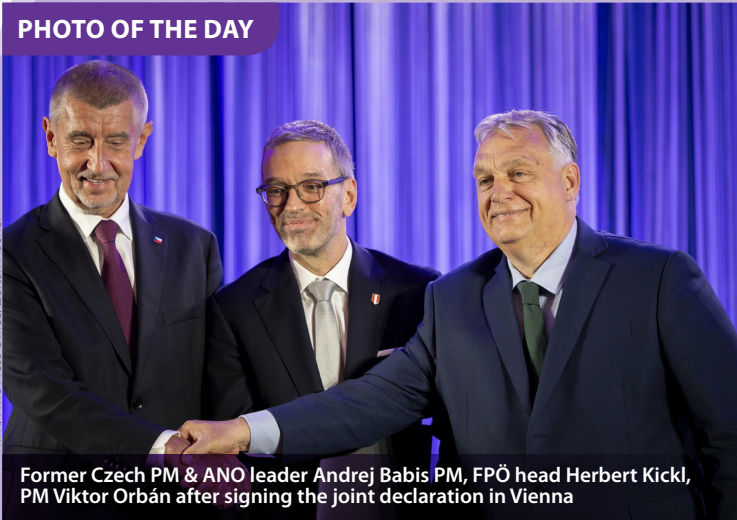


PHOTO OF THE DAY



Former Czech PM & ANO leader Andrej Babiš PM, FPÖ head Herbert Kickl, PM Viktor Orbán after signing the joint declaration in Vienna

UPCOMING EVENTS

First day of Hungarian EU presidency

President Sulyok to pay working visit to Brussels

KSH will release April foreign trade data (detailed, 2nd reading)

Events related to the wars in Ukraine, Middle East

TOP STORY

ORBÁN DECLARES START OF 'NEW ERA'

Viktor Orbán declared the start of a "new era", announcing in Vienna a new European political pact with Herbert Kickl, the head of the Austrian Freedom Party, and Andrej Babiš, the former prime minister of the Czech Republic, who heads the ANO party.

"One era of European politics started in 1989 with the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, and this era has concluded" with the outcome of the European Parliament elections, the Hungarian prime minister told a press conference held in Vienna. "This 25-year era is now over." He added that the decisive moment of the new era was the formation of a new European political group, "which will change European politics". Orbán said a political force was being formed that would soon become "the strongest grouping" of the European right wing. "European politics must be changed; Europe must change," he added. In 20 of the 27 EU member states, parties that promised change won the European parliamentary elections, he said. But "the Brussels elite resisted," he said. "They didn't accept" the outcome, he added. "They don't want change; they want to maintain the status quo. This is unacceptable," Orbán said, adding that the new grouping would "bring about change in the face of the Brussels elite". Orbán unveiled a new "Patriots' manifesto" that outlined the grouping's ideals and goals.

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ORBÁN: EUROPEAN ECONOMY 'IN STATE OF CRISIS'

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said the European economy was in a state of crisis and its weight in the world was declining, while the threat of terrorism and migration was a constant. Addressing a press conference in Vienna, announcing a new European political pact with Herbert Kickl, the head of the Freedom Party of Austria, and Andrej Babis, the former prime minister of the Czech Republic, who heads the ANO party, Orbán also referred to the war in Ukraine, saying no one had succeeded in preventing its outbreak and no one had managed to isolate it. "We're living in the shadow of the war's escalation," he said, adding that Europeans wanted peace, order and development, while "the Brussels elite is for war, migration and stagnation". Notwithstanding poor external conditions, "the bad political decisions of the current Brussels elite also contributed to this crisis," he said, adding that Europe was "uncompetitive" and "we're on the verge of a trade war with our most important potential trading partners and they mismanaged the green transition." "What we have in Brussels now is not green policies, but poisonous green policies," Orbán said, adding these "will kill us rather than cure us". "Today, more coal is used in Europe than before the green transition was started and prices are much higher, which ruins the economy," Orbán said.

He said change was now under way in Europe, with several European governments having folded in light of the EP election results. This was proof that democracy only worked on a national level. National governments resigned "but the Brussels elite resisted because Brussels is not a democratic construct," he said. "Three parties are here before you: the strongest Austrian party, the strongest Czech party and the strongest Hungarian party," the prime minister said. "They are taking responsibility" to launch this new grouping, he declared.

Orbán drew a distinction between politics in Hungary and "Brussels", saying Budapest wanted to stop illegal migration, represented "the traditional family" and believed in national sovereignty. He called Hungary an "island of difference in the great European liberal ocean".

ORBÁN: 'WE'RE BUILDING EUROPEAN RIGHT-WING COOPERATION'

People have voted for change yet, even so, "they have been betrayed by the Brussels elite", Prime Minister Viktor Orbán told daily Magyar Nemzet, adding: "We will continue to build cooperation between European right-wing parties in spite of the pro-war pact." "Europe is in crisis. Christian civilisation that determines the framework of our lives is disappearing," Orbán said, adding that the European Union was in a state of decline and the bloc had been losing its economic significance for the past three

decades. "The European order has been vanishing in front of our eyes," he said, pointing to a growing threat of terrorism and deteriorating public safety. He said that in international politics "peace, order and development" had been replaced by "war, migration and stagnation".

Orbán said matters had been made worse by "a multitude of poor decisions taken by the Brussels bureaucracy in recent years". He insisted that Europe was drifting a war from which it could gain nothing but had "everything to lose". The prime minister said "Brussels bureaucrats are sending the money of European taxpayers to Ukraine" and "have shot European companies in the foot" with sanctions, driven inflation up and pushed millions of European citizens into a cost-of-living crisis. Also, they had weakened the continent's competitiveness through tax raises and mismanaged the green transition, he said, adding that Europe was using more coal, and energy was more costly than five years ago. Orbán said European farmers were protesting on a daily basis and inferior-quality, cut-price Ukrainian farm produce was flooding the market.

He noted that the enlargement of the EU with Western Balkans countries has stalled, arguing that the bloc needed the new member states and their economic momentum more than ever. Due to a mismanaged migration policy, he said illegal migrants continued to flood the Schengen area. Yet Brussels "is penalising countries such as Hungary that stop the migrants and want to force them to take the migrants in," he added.

Orbán said the Brussels bureaucrats failed to consider the interests of ordinary people and instead tried to force their own ideals such “poisonous” green policies and multiculturalism on them.

Orbán said it had been clear before the European parliamentary elections that, in light of the spiralling war in Ukraine, change was needed in Europe, adding that “the overwhelming majority” of voters had opted for parties promising change instead of “a pro-war” stance. In 20 out of 27 member states, sovereigntist or right-wing parties that campaigned with the promise of change claimed victory, he insisted.

European voters had made it clear that they wanted an end to the war in Ukraine, an end to migration, and the European economy back on a path of growth, Orbán said. As expected, people started “taking Europe back”, but “the Brussels bureaucrats launched a counter-attack”. The socialists and liberals, “who are interested in maintaining the status quo”, joined forces with the European People’s Party, and, ignoring the choice of the European people, concluded “a shameful pact”, Orbán said, insisting that the sole aim of the “pro-war pact” was to keep the Brussels elite in power.

The prime minister said the task of the right-wing parties was to enforce the will of European voters, adding that they would continue to build an alliance of European right-wing parties in spite of “the pact of the elite”. “The right-wing parties must create strong European parliamentary groups and build cooperation between them,” he said. There will be two key events on

Sunday, he said, adding that “we must look to Paris and Vienna,” adding that a big step has been taken towards change in America, too. “If everything goes to plan and God helps us, by the end of the year, the patriots will have a majority in the whole of the Western world,” Orbán said.

EU PRESIDENCY - BÓKA: HUNGARY TO HIGHLIGHT 7 PRIORITY AREAS

Hungary’s European Union (EU) presidency will focus on seven priority areas, János Bóka, the EU affairs minister, said. Consultations have been held with all EU member states, EU institutions and candidate states, Bóka noted in a video posted on Facebook, adding that more than 250 discussions had taken place, “which is unprecedented in the history of [EU] presidencies”. Hungary’s presidency wants to adopt a new European competitiveness pact to invigorate the bloc’s economic growth, boost its defence industry, and conclude partnership agreements on protecting the external borders and managing the causes of migration, he said. Also, its aim is to advance the enlargement process when it comes to the candidate countries of the Western Balkans, he added. Further, Hungary will launch a strategic debate on the future of cohesion policy “which has proven a success for decades” in strengthening EU competitiveness and ironing out inequalities in the internal market, Bóka said.

Hungary wants a farmer-centric agricultural policy that lays the foundation for competitive agriculture while guaranteeing Europe’s food security and providing farmers with a fair living, he said. Issues related to demographic challenges will be on agenda in all council formations, Bóka, said, declaring: “Let’s make Europe great again!”

Meanwhile, Bóka underlined in an interview to public radio that boosting European competitiveness will be the main focus of Hungary’s EU presidency. Hungary wants to institute a European competitiveness pact within the framework of the European Council during its presidency, putting the issue in the central focus of politics and highlighting areas where constructive decisions can be made, such as streamlining EU legislation, cutting red tape for European businesses and broadening the internal market. The latter may encompass services, IT and Europe’s defence industry, he added.

A proper European capital market which boosts infrastructure and energy links and establishes a European industrial policy aimed at fulfilling key European objectives, such as the green transition, is also a central objective, Bóka said. A European security and defence policy aimed at strengthening the bloc’s peace and security and managing the migration crisis by strengthening Europe’s external borders and bolstering international partnerships will also be promoted under Hungary’s presidency, he said. “There’s a basic need ... to properly

handle this crisis that has persisted since 2015," he said.

The presidency comes at a time when the European parliament and commission are in the process of being formed, he noted, adding that Hungary would strive to ensure the smooth operations of European institutions during this period while ensuring that the bloc is able to respond to world events.

The minister said Hungary plans to organise a summit of the EU and Western Balkans in addition to a Gulf cooperation forum. Fully 37 formal council meetings are expected to take place in Brussels and Luxembourg, he said. Politically, Hungary's presidency "will be successful if, as well as managing the institutional transition, it also shows how it is possible to deliver the change that European citizens expect, based on the outcome of the EP elections..." the minister said.

**EU PRESIDENCY -
DEUTSCH: 'LEFT-WING
EPP', SOCIALISTS AND
LIBERALS HAVE FORMED
'PRO-WAR' PLATFORM**

The "left-wing European People's Party", together with the socialists and liberals, have formed a "pro-war platform", Fidesz MEP Tamás Deutsch told public radio in an interview. Power politics in Europe, he said, had undermined the will of European voters. Deutsch said there were 20% more "sovereignist, right-wing and conservative" MEPs as a result of the EP election. "It's clear that the right-wing, sovereignist, nationally committed and patriotic parties won the EP election," he added.

He insisted that Europeans had not voted for a left-wing majority but a right-wing one, and they wanted sovereignist forces rather than globalists, and they had voted for peace rather than for war. The left-wing platform was overriding the outcome of the EP election, he said, adding that left-liberal forces had dominated the European mainstream "for decades". He accused the liberal-left of "stealing" the vote from sovereignist forces and handing them on to the globalist left that supported illegal migration and war. Deutsch called this "a declaration of war against the basic institutions of democracy".

Meanwhile, he said Péter Magyar and Ferenc Gyurcsány, the leaders of the Tisza Party and the Democratic Coalition (DK), respectively, were forming tight cooperation in European politics, with Tisza representatives in the EPP and DK's two MEPs part of the European Socialist family, both of which were in a "fraternal" relationship.

The Fidesz MEP said retaining power was paramount in European politics, "no matter how involved the re-anointed Ursula von der Leyen is in one of the gravest corruption cases in the EU's history."

Asked about how cooperative EU member states may be during Hungary's EU presidency, he said that on the one hand, "we can expect loud whining ... with statements defaming Hungary for political and ideological reasons" from the European Parliament, while on the other, the presidency itself had put forward a "well-prepared and high-quality" programme backed by

26 EU member states. Not only would EU affairs be well-managed, but new initiatives would be held to solve "the crises affecting the functioning of the EU in the short term", he said, noting a planned competitiveness pact aimed at preventing the loss of "hundreds of thousands of European jobs" while maintaining "quality of life" of Europeans. Further, he mentioned the need to turn around Europe's demographics and prevent solutions that would see "mostly illegal immigrants from outside the EU" taking European jobs. For this, policies aimed at stopping illegal migration such as those pursued by Hungary were also needed, he added.

**JOBBIK-CONSERVATIVES
ELECT BÉLA ADORJÁN
AS LEADER**

The opposition Jobbik-Conservatives have elected Béla Adorján as the party's leader. The sole candidate won 91 percent of the votes at the party's congress in Budapest.

The outgoing leader, Márton Gyöngyösi, decided not to submit a declaration of intent to run, even though he had signalled his plan to do so on the night of the June 9 EP elections. Adorján, a folklore craftsman by trade who then turned to local politics, told the press conference said the party must establish stability and return to the path it departed from a few years ago. Jobbik, he added, must again focus on people's everyday problems, and the leadership must bolster ties with party members and rebuild trust in the party. Brenner Koloman was elected as deputy leader at the congress.

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GERMAN AUTHORITIES EXTRADITE TO HUNGARY A SUSPECT IN LAST FEB 'ANTIFA CASE'

German authorities have extradited to Hungary a suspect allegedly involved in the so-called "antifa case" in which a group carried out violent attacks in February last year in Budapest, Budapest police (BRFK) said on its website police.hu. Wanted on a European and international warrant, the 23-year-old German national was apprehended in Berlin in December 2023, according to the website. The man was transferred to BRFK's officers at the Hungarian-Austrian border and taken to Budapest where he was heard on charges of life threatening violent acts. The defendant refused to testify and his arrest was initiated.

Last year, members of the organisation travelled to Budapest to take part in coordinated attacks in connection with the anniversary of the Nazi breakout of the Castle District during the siege of the capital in February 1945. Coinciding with the anniversary, members of the group used telescopic stun batons and pepper spray to attack several people whom they picked because they were wearing clothing indicating far-right views. The police later said that five coordinated attacks had been carried out on Feb. 9-11 in 2023 in Budapest, leaving four victims with serious and another five with light injuries. Three suspects were arrested on Feb 11, including a 38-year-old Italian woman, a 29-year-old German man and a 26-year-old German woman. BRFK

said that the German man extradited on Friday was one of the three suspects apprehended abroad. A search is on for another eleven suspects wanted on international warrants.

NEW DIRECT FLIGHT FROM XI'AN ARRIVES IN BUDAPEST

A new direct flight between Budapest and Xi'an, the capital of China's Shaanxi Province, will connect the two countries' culture and economy, Boglárka Illés, the foreign ministry state secretary for bilateral relations, said at the inaugural ceremony at Liszt Ferenc Airport. The new flight brings the number of direct flights between Hungary and China to 21 a week, with the Shanghai-Budapest route adding a stopover in Xi'an once a week, every Saturday, Illés said. In addition, there will be one weekly direct flight between Xi'an and Budapest, providing direct access to China's 7th big city, the eastern end of the Silk Road, and Shaanxi province, the cradle of Chinese civilisation, she said.

FESTIVAL ACADEMY CONCERT ARTISTS TO COMMEMORATE HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

In commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Hungarian Holocaust, concert artists will pay tribute to its victims as part of the Festival Academy's Budapest Summer Festival held at the Dohány Street Synagogue on July 15. The performers will include Dora Schwarzberg, Shlomo Mintz, Thomas Dunford, Vilde Frang, Orsolya

Korcsolán, Jens Peter Maintz, Barnabás Kelemen, Katalin and Dóra Kokas, Alissa Margulis, Maxim Rysanov, Latica Honda-Rosenberg, Jonian Ilias Kadesha, Nora Romanoff-Schwarzberg, Kyril Zlotnikov, Miklós Lukács, Dmitry Sitkovetsky, as well as the students of the Festival Academy Budapest. The synagogue's principal cantor, László Fekete, will take part in the memorial concert. In between the musical performances, actors Gabriella Hámori and Zoltán Bezerédi will read excerpts from the works of György Petri, Péter Esterházy, Imre Kertész, Miklós Radnóti and Endre Ady. Puccini's Chrysanthemums for string quartet, Mendelssohn's Octet, the Nigun movement of Ernest Bloch's Baal Shem, and Max Bruch Kol Nidrei will be performed.

HUNGARY ISSUES COLLECTOR COIN MARKING EU PRESIDENCY

The National Bank of Hungary (NBH) will issue a collector coin marking the start of the Hungarian presidency of the Council of the European Union on July 1, the bank said. The NBH will issue the coin in silver and non-ferrous metal versions with face values of 7,500 forints and 3,000 forints, respectively. The obverse of the coin features representations of Hungary's parliament building, the Tihany Abbey and the Millennium Monument above an abstract, dotted representation of an assembly hall. The reverse of the coin shows the national coat of arms surrounded by a stylised network of interlocking semi-circles, emblemising diplomatic relations, and twelve stars symbolising the EU.