

## PHOTO OF THE DAY



MTVA/PM's press office/Vivien Cher Benko

PM Orbán speaking at the summit of the Organisation of Turkic States in Shusha, Azerbaijan

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Finance ministry releases June budget report**

**Events related to the war in Ukraine**

**Hungary's EU presidency**

## TOP STORY

# ORBÁN: OTS 'PILLAR' OF EAST-WEST COOPERATION

The Organisation of Turkic States (OTS) is a "vital pillar" of East-West cooperation, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said on Saturday at the informal summit of OTS held in Azerbaijan's Shusha.

Commenting on Hungary's current six-month European Union presidency, he said he considered it a peace mission and referred to his recent visits in Kyiv and Moscow. He said the city of Shusha in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which returned under Azeri control in November 2020, was encouraging from the point of view of peace for Hungary, a country which he said had been living in the shadow of the Ukrainian war for two and a half years. Orbán expressed respect to Azeri President Ilham Aliyev for "giving back the possibility of peaceful life to several hundred thousand people in the Caucasus region". Commenting on the European Parliament elections of June, he said they had caused a "political earthquake". People in 20 of the 27 EU countries voted for change, he added. Some pro-war governments had failed or weakened significantly, he said. He said the Patriots for Europe party alliance, to be formed on Monday, would be the third strongest group in the EP.

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## **SZIJJÁRTÓ: IMPROVING COOPERATION WITH TURKIC STATES IMPORTANT GOAL OF HUNGARY'S EU PRESIDENCY**

Turkic states could play an important role in the return to global cooperation, and Hungary considers it an important goal to improve relations with these countries during its European Union presidency, the foreign minister said in Shusha in Azerbaijan on Saturday. Péter Szijjártó told a foreign ministers' working meeting at the summit of the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS) that in the current era of crises, Hungary was forced to live in the shadow of a war for more than two and a half years. During its current EU presidency, Hungary will make every effort to prevent the re-formation of blocs in the world because the country continues to believe in connectivity and cooperation based on mutual respect, he said. Turkic states are critically important when it comes to returning to global cooperation, and it is therefore an important goal for Hungary to improve cooperation between the EU and the OTS, he said. Hungary views the Turkic states as a source of new impetus and dynamism, which could greatly contribute to strengthening the EU's competitiveness, he added.

## **SZIJJÁRTÓ: HUNGARY-TÜRKIYE COOPERATION 'REAL SUCCESS STORY'**

The cooperation between Hungary and Türkiye is a real success story, the foreign minister said on Saturday. Péter Szijjártó said on Facebook during the summit of the Organization of Turkic States in Shusha, in Azerbaijan, that trade between Hungary and Türkiye had exceeded 4 billion dollars, breaking a new record, last year. "Our cooperation with Türkiye contributes to the security of Hungary's energy supplies, Hungary having become the first neighbouring country with Türkiye this year where Türkiye exports natural gas," he said. Hungary's natural gas supplies could not be guaranteed without the reliable transit role of the TurkStream pipeline and Türkiye, with some 6 billion cubic metres of natural gas arriving by this route to Hungary last year and continued reliable supplies this year, he said. He said consultations were ongoing on the expansion of energy cooperation to include crude oil extraction and nuclear energy. Szijjártó said that "during our European Union presidency we plan to call a meeting of the Türkiye-EU Association Council, and in order to further develop trade cooperation we would like to renew the EU customs union with Türkiye and make progress in the area of visa simplification".

## **BORRELL: HUNGARY HAS NOT RECEIVED MANDATE TO FURTHER TIES BETWEEN EU, OTS**

Hungary has not received any mandate from the EU Council to advance the relations with the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS), Josep Borrell, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said on Sunday, after Prime Minister Viktor Orbán attended an informal meeting of the OTS in Shusha, Azerbaijan. Orbán's participation at the meeting held on Friday and Saturday "took place exclusively in the framework of the bilateral relations between Hungary and this organisation," Borrell said in a statement.

## **ORBÁN HOLDS TALKS WITH UZBEK PRESIDENT**

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on Saturday held bilateral talks with President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of the Organisation of Turkic States summit in Shusha in Azerbaijan. The sides were in agreement that Uzbek-Hungarian cooperation had been "developing spectacularly" in recent years, with relations raised to the level of strategic partnership in 2021 and several economic projects launched between the two countries. Further plans of cooperation were agreed upon on Saturday, he added.

## **SZIJJÁRTÓ: GOVT TO CONTINUE 'PEACE MISSION'**

Hungary's government will continue its peace mission "despite the attacks of pro-war European politicians", the foreign minister said on Facebook on Sunday, at the end of the first week of the Hungarian presidency of the European Union. "It must have become apparent to everyone that the next six months will be a peace mission," Péter Szijjártó said. Hungary will do everything in its power to contribute to the end of the war and to broker peace, "after two and a half years of suffocating war crisis." The past week had also shown why the crisis was deepening in Europe, Szijjártó said. "Europe is full of pro-war politicians who have all surfaced this week, criticising the Hungarian government and prime minister for working for peace." Those politicians "have deepened the crisis with weapon deliveries, with [voicing] phantasies on sending land troops and about nuclear weapons," he said. "These attacks do not intimidate or discourage us, the peace mission will continue and even strengthen, and so I would like to ask pro-war politicians to buckle their seatbelts and pay attention next week too," Szijjártó said.

## **SZIJJÁRTÓ: HUNGARY WORKING TO AVOID EU-CHINA TRADE WAR**

While holding the rotating presidency of the European Union, Hungary will continue to work to avoid a trade war

between the bloc and China as that would severely damage the EU, the foreign minister said in Budapest on Sunday, at talks with Robin Zeng, the founding chairman of Chinese battery maker CATL. According to a ministry statement, Péter Szijjártó called CATL one of the most important players in the technological revolution of the global car industry. The number of electric vehicles is growing worldwide, slowly pushing out traditional engines, he said. "Hungary has bet on the right horse when we decided to turn the country into a cooperation hub between eastern and western car manufacturers," he said, noting the facilities set up by German, Chinese and South Korean manufacturers. CATL has a great role in the process, with the first unit of its new plant inaugurated at the end of June, in a 40,000 sqm building near Debrecen, in eastern Hungary. The development has also fostered large infrastructural developments, Szijjártó said. Trial runs are expected to start in early 2025, he added.

Szijjártó also touched on plans to impose EU tariffs on the Chinese car industry. "This is a very bad idea from a European standpoint. Those tariffs would seriously damage the European economy. We sincerely hope that they will not be introduced in the end."

While "Brussels bureaucrats" had pointed to defending the interests of European car manufacturers, those manufacturers themselves said the tariffs would harm them too, Szijjártó said. "If the European Commission imposes tariffs on Chinese products, then China will take similar measures against European

products, which would be extremely harmful for the entire European economy. We continue to believe in European-Asian including European-Chinese cooperation based on mutual respect aiming for mutual benefits, rather than tariffs, restrictions and sanctions," he said.

## **VOX, PVV TO JOIN PATRIOTS FOR EUROPE**

Spain's Vox party and the Dutch Freedom Party (PVV) will join the party group of Patriots for Europe, a new European party alliance, in the European Parliament, party leaders said on Friday. Vox leader Santiago Abascal told Spanish news portal La Gaceta the new group was aimed to integrate patriotic and sovereigntist forces in Europe, which was in line with his party's goals. "Patriotic forces have a historic chance to use their mandate from voters in a large group, offering an alternative to the coalition of EPP, the Socialists and the radical left," the portal quoted a statement by Vox. PFE "reflects on a new reality, on a message from Europeans that want a radical and urgent change of directions in the EU," the statement said.

PVV leader Geert Wilders said on platform X: "We are PVV-patriots, we love our nation. Strong and sovereign." PVV fights against illegal immigration and defends peace and freedom, he said, adding that his party supported Ukraine. "We protect our Judeo-Christian heritage. And our families," he said. "We want to combine forces in the EP and will proudly join Patriots for Europe," Wilders said.

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## **FORMER AUSTRIA CHANCELLOR PRAISES ORBÁN'S PEACE EFFORTS**

Former Austrian chancellor Sebastian Kurz praised Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán over his efforts towards establishing peace, saying that those “lend us an opportunity to move into the right direction”, in an interview to Mandiner weekly on Friday. The weekly asked Kurz, chancellor between 2017-2019, in connection with Orbán's recent visit to Kyiv to consult with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on a peace proposal and travelled on Friday to Moscow to hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. “Russia's aggressive war against Ukraine has brought enormous suffering. Our main goal must be to stop bloodshed and return to the negotiating table for talks,” Kurz said, adding that those goals could only be achieved through diplomacy and open communication. He said efforts by Orbán and Hungary's current EU presidency “offer us an opportunity to take a step into the right direction, but it should be up to the warring sides to seek out a solution”.

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## **WELTWOCHTE EDITOR-IN- CHIEF: ORBÁN CREATED CHANCE FOR PEACE TALKS**

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has created a chance of peace talks between Russia and Ukraine at a time when Brussels “is only capable of war

communication with Moscow”, Roger Köppel, the editor-in-chief of Swiss weekly Weltwoche, told Hungarian public television on Sunday. Köppel said in an interview with news channel M1 that it was “extremely important” that Orbán was keeping diplomatic channels open. Thanks to his “heroic mission”, the relations between Ukraine and Hungary were showing positive signs, he said: President Zelensky called for continuing the talks after Orbán had left Kyiv following his visit early this week. While “the mood was chilly” in Kyiv before, the talks were open and constructive, Köppel said. Orbán had achieved that the warring parties’ “stances have opened” somewhat, Köppel said. Although both sides think a ceasefire would benefit the other, they are now ready to talk about peace, he said. “It is absurd that Brussels is outraged by that ... while they are obviously looking on with envy, too,” he said. He also credited Orbán with achieving that Zelensky “would now be ready to sit down with Russia”.

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## **HUNGARY OFFERS EVACUATION CAPACITY TO EUGB BATTLE GROUP**

Hungary has offered strategic air medical evacuation capacity consisting of an Airbus A319 aircraft and flight and health-care personnel to the Polish-led EUGB battle group, the Hungarian Armed Forces said on Saturday. The aircraft and staff will not be an active participant of the battle group but prepared to fly 200 hours

as supporting capacity in the second half of 2024 and the first half of 2025, the press secretary of Brigadier General Csaba Ugrik said. The capacity will be stationed in Hungary, he added. If necessary, the aircraft will be used to support EUBG operations in strategic airborne medical evacuation tasks, he said, entailing the evacuation of wounded soldiers to Warsaw, Prague, Bratislava or other airports, the armed forces said.

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## **CCOURT ORDERS KURIA TO CALL FOR RECOUNT OF ALL VOTES IN BUDAPEST MAYORAL ELECTION**

The Constitutional Court has ordered the supreme court, the Kuria, to call for a recount of all votes cast in last month's election for Budapest mayor, a decision posted on the top court's website showed. The Constitutional Court on Friday scrapped as unconstitutional a recent ruling by the Kuria, which had okayed the results of the June 9 mayoral election in Budapest, according to the decision. According to the Constitutional Court, the Kuria had failed to appropriately justify its decision to reject a request to review the National Election Committee's decree, which had established that incumbent Mayor Gergely Karácsony had won the ballot as against contender Dávid Vitézy with just 41 votes. Under the top court's ruling the supreme court is obliged to repeat its procedure and make a new decision.

## **MAGYAR: 'ERA OF PREPARATION TO TOPPLE REGIME STARTS'**

Péter Magyar, the deputy leader of the Respect and Freedom (Tisza) party, held a "campaign opening event" on Saturday, and told participants that "the era of the political rock star, the street warrior has ended, and the preparation of toppling the regime has started". The Tisza party is working to "fundamentally renew Hungary", Magyar told the event held in Budapest. The party needs "all Hungarians" to win at the general election in 2026, he said. The party has not accepted foreign funding so far, and will continue that policy, Magyar said. He also slammed opposition parties, saying they had "kept Fidesz in power" by not resigning after many "abject failures". Magyar said that as members of the largest European parliamentary party group, the European People's Party, Tisza had a chance to "have real influence" on decision-making. He said he was meeting the EP's president in 10 days "to coordinate on bringing EU monies home".

## **MOMENTUM ELECTS MÁRTON TOMPOS AS PARTY LEADER**

The assembly of the opposition Momentum Movement has elected lawmaker Márton Tompos as its leader on Sunday. Tompos is the party's founding member, deputy leader of its parliamentary group and has served as a deputy leader since January. The previous party leader, Anna Donáth, resigned after the EP elections on June 10. In a Facebook post after the election, Tompos promised "less talk, more action". "The representatives of liberal, active politics will be there when we topple this regime. Momentum must continue on that road," he said.

## **GOVT SPOX: GOVT EXPECTS SWIFT, EFFECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST 'UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS' AT AIRPORT**

The government is expecting immediate, swift and effective measures to tackle the "unacceptable conditions" at the Budapest Liszt

Ferenc International Airport, government spokeswoman Eszter Vitályos said on Saturday. The past weeks have seen many flights delayed or cancelled Europe-wide, including Budapest, Vitályos said on Facebook. She thanked the airport for designating two zones where stranded travellers can access food and water, as well as mothers' rooms for mothers with babies, and baby food and health-care packages for families. At the same time, "in the 21st century, it is unacceptable that Hungarian families and visiting tourists should be stranded at the airport for long hours, without relevant information and provisions. The developments at the airport now are the consequences of the period before the government took possession of the airport. As soon as the airport is truly, physically passed over [to the new owners], the situation will improve," she said. On June 6, the government announced that it had bought an 80% stake in the airport along with Vinci, which had acquired 20%.