



URGENT RESOLUTION

ON SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE IN HUNGARY

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF MEMBERS
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 26-28 APRIL 2018

On Hungary, the European Youth Forum:

- A. *Observing* the recent Hungarian parliamentary elections, which took place 8th April 2018,
- B. *Further* referring to the values which the Council of Europe stands for, human rights, democracy and rule of law, as well as the European Convention on Human Rights and the Revised European Social Charter of the Council of Europe,
- C. *Recalling* the application of existing principles set out in the relevant recommendations of the Council of Europe to Member States, in particular CM/Rec(2016)7 on young people's access to rights,
- D. *Referring* to the European Union as a union founded on common values, such as freedom, democracy, and the rule of law (Art. 2 TEU),
- E. *Stressing* the diversity of civil society interests that are member of the European Youth Forum, the biggest youth civil society platform worldwide,
- F. *Understanding* its role as independent and democratic youth platform, which strives to defend the rights and interests of young people in Europe,
- G. *Noting* that democratic rights are essential to youth rights,
- H. *Further noting* that in order to guarantee an increase in youth participation, civil society needs to be able to do its work,
- I. *Furthermore underlining* that for civil society to work, the media needs to be able to report independently,
- J. *Having noted* the recent political developments in Hungary, such as the Media law, the judicial reform, the "lex NGO" adopted in May 2017 and the proposal for the so-called "Stop Soros" bill,
- K. *Noting* that violations of rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights in Hungary are testing the EU's ability to defend its founding values;
- L. *Noting* the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which prohibits discrimination based on any grounds such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation;
- M. *Noting* that Central European University was under threat of being shut down by the government of Hungary;
- N. *Whereas the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union provides that the arts and scientific research shall be free of constraint and that academic freedom shall be respected;*
- O. *Noting* with deep concern that since then a major media outlet, which was not pro-government, has already stopped publishing,
- P. *Alerted* by the publication of lists naming more than 200 civil society employees and activists on Thursday, April 12 by the important magazine Figyelő,
- Q. *Worried* by the fact that the publication has not been publicly condemned by government officials.

Thus,

1. *Understands* its responsibility as the biggest youth civil society platform globally in this context,
2. *Expresses*, thus, its solidarity with civil society organisations working in Hungary,
3. *Reaffirms* its role working together for a democratic Europe,
4. *Calls upon* the Hungarian government to make certain that free press and independent civil society can remain active in Hungary,
5. *Asks* the EU institutions and the Council of Europe to support independent civil society in Hungary,
6. *Asks* the EU institutions to initiate a formal procedure to determine whether there is a clear risk of a serious breach of EU values by the Hungarian government,
7. *Encourages* its Member Organisations to work together with civil society in Hungary, be it in the framework of Erasmus+ programmes or outside of it,
8. *Requests* the removal of all obstacles, especially legal barriers and restrictions for foreign funds, for civil society to functioning properly and independently,
9. *Ensures* that it will continue to strive for the rights of young people living in Hungary.

Due to the urgency and lack of time to consult with its members, the Hungarian National Youth Council abstains from this resolution.