

SLI | INTERNATIONAL GROUP

TO:

FROM: Hon. Connie Mack

DATE: 6/28/17

SUBJECT: Brief on Hungary

On July 20th, 2016, Prime Minister Orbán became the first and only European Head of State to publicly endorse Donald Trump for President of the United States. In his speech, PM Orbán remarked that he was swayed by the security proposals outlined in President Trump's acceptance speech as the Republican Party's nominee. Other highlights of Orbán's initial speech include:

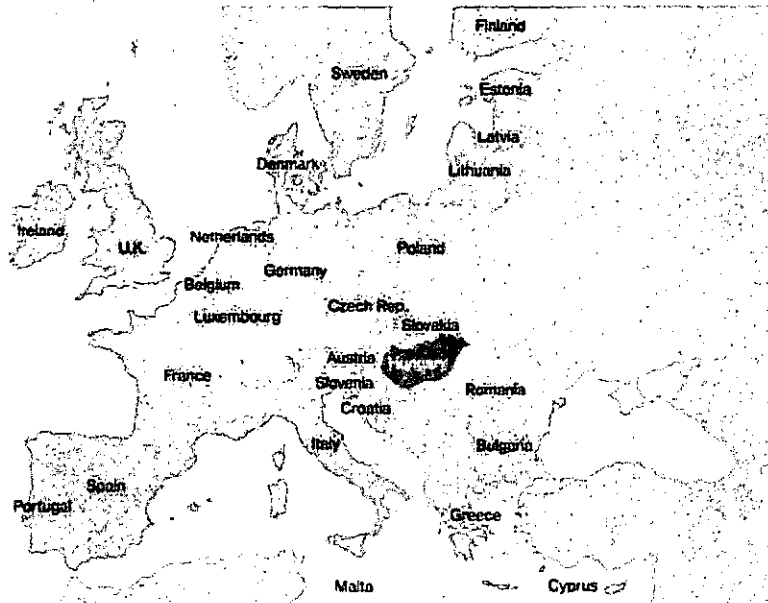
- "He (Donald Trump) would be the better one (candidate) for Europe and for Hungary." [Read More](#)
- "I listened to the candidate and I must tell you he made three proposals to combat terrorism. And as a European I could have hardly articulated better what Europe needs." [Read More](#)

The map below clearly demonstrates Hungary's support for the Trump Administration:

Cold Welcome for Trump

Preferred U.S. presidential candidates among EU28

◻ Supports Hillary Clinton ● Supports Donald Trump ◻ Non-EU states



Source: European Council on Foreign Relations

Bloomberg

*This material is distributed by SLI Group LLC on behalf of the Government of Hungary.
Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC*

Orbán's support of President Trump continues. In fact, earlier this year, the Prime Minister defended President Trump's refugee policy at a gathering of EU Heads of State and Government stating:

- Feb 3, 2017 – Statement before the EU summit in Valetta, Malta:
 - **"I am surprised to observe the neurotic reactions criticizing the decision of the United States"** [to temporarily ban citizens of certain countries from entering the US].
 - **"The United States is not a member of the European Union; it is an independent state and as such has the right to determine its own border, foreign and migration policies."**
 - **"(...) this is something the United States has a right to do (...)** It makes absolutely no difference what we think about this, it isn't Europe's business. (...) We should be concentrating on ourselves and **should be dealing with our own problems instead of criticizing the United States."**

Orbán's Hungary is committed to strengthening U.S.-Hungarian relations and cooperation. They are "interested in a strong Hungary in a strong Europe" and are extremely optimistic about the prospect of working with the Trump administration and a GOP-controlled congress to accomplish this.

Additional PM Viktor Orbán's comments supporting the Trump Administration

- Mar 9, 2017 – Doorstep Statement before meeting of the European Council
- Jan 23, 2017 – Speech at the Lámfalussy Conference.
 - **"(...) I think that last week we heard a key sentence, and we must take this key phrase seriously. If we understand this correctly, we shall understand everything that follows. This key phrase is not the one quoted by most people – "America First" – but this: "it is the right of all nations to put their own interests first". This represents a great change. These words could not have come from an earlier US president, but now they have come from this president. This means that the era of multilateralism is at an end, and the era of bilateral relations is upon us. For us this is good news, because it is an unnatural state of affairs when, influenced by external pressure, one dare not state that one's own country comes first when governing, making decisions, or considering what the central bank should do. This unnatural state of affairs is at an end, and we have been given permission, if you like, from the world's highest secular position, that we, too, can place our own interests first. This is a great thing, it is a great freedom and a great gift."**
- Dec 15, 2016 – Hungarian news and opinion site 888.hu interview:
 - **"Therein lies the kinship with the US President-elect. You can sense this same self-made man mentality in him [as in Fidesz]."**
 - **"I've spoken to a true American. (...) We found a common voice. This is unusual in politics, especially with the leader of a great power."**
- Nov 9, 2016 – Facebook post following the US elections:
 - **"Congratulations. What great news. Democracy is still alive."**

- Jul 23, 2016 – Speech at the 27th Bálványos Summer Open University and Camp:
 - **“I am not Donald Trump’s campaign manager. I had never thought that it would seem to me that, of the candidates on offer, he would, after all, be the best option for Europe and Hungary. I would never have thought so. But I have listened to that candidate, and I have to say that he made three proposals for curbing terrorism. And, as a European, I myself could hardly have given a better analysis of what Europe needs.”**

Q&A following the speech:

- **“First of all, let me say in the context of this whole migration affair that now that I listened to the speeches of the American presidential candidates, one of the American presidential candidates, it became clear to us, or to me, that the outcome of the American presidential election is not at all indifferent for us. The Republican presidential candidate said yesterday that immigration is a bad thing and it must be stopped; no one can enter America who does not respect the American values, who does not subject himself to the laws, and does not accept the customs they have. Those who fail to do these things should not come, and that is that – this is clear talking; we are used to finer speech in high politics, but that does not change the essence of it all. The situation is that one of the main supporters of the pressure of immigration that is weighing heavy upon Hungary is the United States. Partly through its official policy; President Obama spoke about this openly at the NATO summit. Everyone who is opposed to immigration was classified as a bad guy – there I sat lying low at the end of the table...**
- **It is not indifferent who will be the prospective President of the United States, what he or she thinks about immigration, and this will determine our lives. I do not criticize the Americans; I just want to make clear that what is right in their view destroys us, and I therefore cannot endorse it.**
- **So first of all, I would like to say that the presidential election in the United States of America is relevant to Europe’s immigration policy and the future of the situation of Hungary.”**

SLI Group LLC
1700 K Street, NW Ste 825 Washington, DC 20006
Email: c4@con尼克.com Phone: (202) 684-3035
239-851-5377

SLI INTERNATIONAL GROUP

Assertions in H. RES. 353

The draft resolution states that it aims to support the relationship between Hungary and the US.

This goal is shared by Hungary. Our relations must be based on mutual respect and dialogue, but not on one-sided public condemnation. The Hungarian Parliament has never adopted a resolution condemning the US for any reason. The draft contains a laundry list of criticisms that are moot, unsubstantiated and/or factually incorrect.

The draft refers to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's speech in 2014 on the shortcomings of liberal ideas.

The allegation is erroneously interpreted to mean the endorsement of an authoritarian system, because the quote is taken out of context. The actual quote is: *"We had to state that a democracy does not necessarily have to be liberal. Just because a state is not liberal, it can still be a democracy... Hungary's citizens are expecting Hungary's leaders to find, formulate and forge a new method of Hungarian state organisation that, following the liberal state and the era of liberal democracy and while of course respecting the values of Christianity, freedom and human rights, can again make the Hungarian community competitive..."* The PM did not refer to Russia as his model.

The resolution relies on NGOs' negative statements about Hungary as proof, and later criticizes the NGO bill.

Many NGOs, including those listed, also criticize the US, which does not justify passing resolutions critical of each other, as that is not conducive to fostering a good relationship.

The criticism of the NGO bill is moot, as the law adopted contained amendments reflecting comments received by the Hungarian lawmakers. The bill was not based upon the Russian Foreign Agent Law. Unlike the Russian or Israeli law or the US FARA Act, it does not label organizations as "foreign agents". Hungary's law requires transparency, whether funding is received from the US, Russia or the Middle East. US organizations, including charities, are also required to disclose their funding sources and are prohibited from lobbying. In Hungary, the latter is not the case.

The legislative intent of the law was recognized as legitimate by the Venice Commission. Furthermore, the modifications proposed by the Venice Commission, with the exception of two, were incorporated in the law. The law exempts sport, minority and religious organizations from the scope of the act, but this should be considered as positive and not negative. The law requires other organizations to publicly identify their status. How can this be construed to silence independent civil society organizations? The law does not require the dissolution of organizations as a penalty.

The resolution claims that the Hungarian government suppresses free speech at universities.

A review by the Hungarian Education Authority revealed irregularities in the operation of numerous foreign universities in Hungary. The amendment of the Act on Higher Education

This material is distributed by SLI Group LLC on behalf of the Government of Hungary.
Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

addresses those problems. There are three American universities affected, and the Government is in negotiations with two of the States, while preparation for the third is in progress.

The political campaign of CEU in the US is misleading. The future of CEU (Közép-európai Egyetem in Hungarian; operating in Budapest) is not in danger. Accreditation and agreement, just as with all other universities, is also necessary for CEU, so that it may also issue American diplomas. We disagree that, free speech or academic freedom is violated by the new Hungarian law, as those requirements are already the law in many other EU Member States.

The resolution alleges human rights violations in the treatment of illegal migrants.

The claim is unsubstantiated. Hungary closed its green border and set up transit centers to curb illegal migration and implement the Schengen requirements, which it is obligated to do, and in order to provide security for Europe. The measures are similar to those in the two DHS memoranda of February 20, 2017 on Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements Policies and Immigration Law. Before the establishment of the transit centers in Hungary, immigrants submitted a request for asylum and, prior to adjudication, most departed to unknown destinations in Europe. Perpetrators of terrorist attacks have taken advantage of this weakness in the system to enter the EU. Children are kept in the transit centers, so they are not separated from their families. The average duration of the process is 33 days.

The resolution claims that opposition newspaper Népszabadság was closed due to political pressures.

The newspaper had been in the red for many years (as is the case with many newspapers in the new IT age) and its Austrian owners decided not to bankroll it further. There was no Government or Media Authority involvement in that business decision.

Media Authority can revoke licenses for minor infractions without due process.

Could anybody cite just one case when such revocation actually happened?

Politicians regularly file defamation charges against journalists.

Yes, such actions are taken by all sides of the political spectrum. Legal defamation actions are and may be filed in many democracies. The law protects both the freedom of expression and the personal rights of individuals, including politicians. How is an individual's request for judicial redress a form of government repression of media freedom?

SLI | INTERNATIONAL GROUP

TO:

FROM: Hon. Connie Mack

DATE: 6/28/17

SUBJECT: Fiona Hill Backgrounder

Soon after taking office, President Trump tapped Ms. Fiona Hill to serve on the National Security Council staff as the Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European and Russian Affairs. Before joining the administration, Ms. Hill was a Senior Fellow & Director of the Center on the United States and Europe at the left-leaning Brookings Institution. On her CV, Ms. Hill also lists the fact that she is a Member of the Central Eurasia Project Advisory Board, a sub-organization of George Soros' Open Society Institute based in New York City. Additionally, Ms. Hill served as the Advisor to the President of the Eurasia Foundation from 2000-2005, another organization with close connections to the Soros network outlined below.

As I am sure you are aware, the Open Society Institute was first established by George Soros in 1993 in NYC and is one of the many organizations that operate under the umbrella of his Open Society Foundations. This network encompasses foundations, offices, initiatives, and grantees in more than 60 countries and regions all over the world. According to the Open Society Foundations website, the Open Society Institute and the international offices of the Open Society Institute, such as the one located in Budapest, "provide administrative, financial, and technical support to the Soros foundations and also operate OSI initiatives, which address specific issues on a regional or network-wide basis, and other independent programs."

The Eurasia Foundation is a Washington-based non-profit group that is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and other public and private donors. While the Eurasia Foundation receives the majority of its funding from USAID through multi-year core grants, their 2002 Annual Report outlined the foundations ability to attract other funding from corporations as well as other foundations and institutions. They state, "until 2002, these multilateral and public-private partnerships were primarily focused on programs in Russia and Ukraine. They are now being expanded in response to new opportunities in other regions. For example, in the Caucasus alone, Norway, Switzerland, the **Open Society Institute**, and the World Bank have provided financial support for a wide variety of grant programs."

The Open Society Institute – Budapest acts as the administrative and operational headquarters for a number of Open Society initiatives. The office also provides administrative, financial and technical support to other parts of the Open Society Foundations. On their website they state, "**The Open Society Institute – Budapest is located in the Central European University complex, and its programs often share resources with the university.**"

SLI Group LLC
1700 K Street, NW Ste 825 Washington, DC 20006
Email: cm@conniemack.com Phone: (202) 684-3035
239-851-5377

After considering the information outlined above, it is clear that the likely source of hostility towards Hungary coming from within the U.S. foreign policy apparatus is Fiona Hill. Her connections to the Soros network, specifically the Open Society Institute and Eurasia Foundation, have clearly influenced her opinion and by extension, the behavior of the State Department. Therefore, we must continue to shine a light on the far-reaching network of George Soros in order to continually degrade his international influence.

SLI INTERNATIONAL GROUP

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF THE LEGISLATION OF RUSSIA, ISRAEL AND HUNGARY GOVERNING NGOS

ISSUE	RUSSIA	ISRAEL	HUNGARY	SIMILARITY TO HUNGARY
Registration procedure	<p>Authorization required.</p> <p>State tax is collected.</p>	<p>Notification required.</p> <p>The fee for the <i>amutah</i> (NGO) registration is NIS 942 (ca. \$270).</p>	<p>Notification required.</p> <p>No tax or fee for NGO registration.</p>	<p>Russian NGOs are not required to be authorized or registered.</p> <p>Israel: similar, but stricter.</p>
Participation of foreign nationals in NGOs	<p>Only foreign nationals and stateless persons that legally reside in the territory of Russia are entitled to act as NGO founders and participants.</p>	<p>No differentiation between foreign nationals and Israeli citizens, everyone's entitled to establish an NGO.</p>	<p>No differentiation between foreign nationals and Hungarian citizens, everyone's entitled to establish an NGO.</p>	<p>Russian NGOs are not required to be authorized or registered.</p> <p>Israel: basically the same.</p>
Criteria for being considered as foreign-funded NGOs	<p>If an NGO received any funds from abroad, it is considered a foreign agent.</p> <p>(There was a case where foreign funds amounted to a mere 1.5 percent of the total budget, yet the NGO in question was closed.)</p>	<p>Only entities with foreign funds amounting to half of the total revenues according to the last fiscal year are within the scope of the legislation.</p>	<p>Only entities with foreign funds over HUF 7,200,000 (ca. \$26,000) according to the last fiscal year are within the scope of the legislation.</p> <p>As soon as the annual amount of foreign funds gets below this number, the NGO is no longer considered foreign-funded.</p>	<p>Russian NGOs are not required to be authorized or registered.</p> <p>Israel: similar – proportional financial threshold means smaller NGOs are included.</p>

This material is distributed by SLI Group LLC on behalf of the Government of Hungary.

Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

<p>Special measures for foreign-funded NGOs</p>	<p>NGOs and their members need to register as 'foreign agents'. They need to indicate the fact of foreign funding in their publications and on their websites. Foreign-funded NGOs in Russia need to report on their political activities quarterly.</p>	<p>NGOs primarily financed from abroad are only required to conspicuously indicate this fact in their publications, on their websites, and during discussions with public servants or elected officials at their place of employment. NGOs primarily financed from abroad need to specify the names of the foreign political entities from which it has received the donations.</p>	<p>NGOs primarily financed from abroad are only required to conspicuously indicate this fact in their publications and on their websites. Foreign donors that provide at least HUF 500,000 (ca. \$1,800) must be identified (name and address), smaller donors may remain anonymous.</p>	<p>NGOs and members of NGOs Israel: similar, but stricter.</p>
<p>Sanctions on foreign funded NGOs which lack to meet the requirements</p>	<p>Any NGOs that fail to meet the legal obligations can be terminated immediately, without prior legal procedures or preliminary fees.</p>	<p>Foreign-funded NGOs that do not meet the requirements mentioned above can be subject to a fine between USD 7,200 and 8,100.</p>	<p>Foreign-funded NGOs that do not meet the requirements mentioned above receive a warning and later a notice by the prosecutor, and then can be subject to a fine between USD 36 and 3,300. As soon as the annual amount of foreign funds gets below this number, the NGO is automatically no longer considered foreign-funded.</p>	<p>Israel: similar, but more severe fines.</p>