

<http://civic-forum.eu/call-for-action/csos-call-upon-epp-to-review-its-candidate-for-vice-chair-of-libe-committee>

On 10 July 2019, the European People's Party (EPP) decided to nominate Mr. Balázs Hidvéghi, elected in Hungary under the Fidesz header, for the role of Vice-Chair of the Committee on civil liberties, justice and home affairs of the European Parliament. While the Chair and three Vice-chairs of the Committee were successfully elected, the decision regarding Mr. Hidvéghi's application for the remaining Vice-Chair position was postponed.

Mr. Hidvéghi was one of the chief communicators under Mr. Orban's government in the past years. He has been particularly vocal during public smear campaigns in Hungary, specifically targeting political opposition, civic NGOs and critical journalists.

Having also in mind the suspension of the Fidesz membership from EPP in the run-up to EU elections, the undersigned Civil Society Organisations regret the choice made by the EPP group.

The reintroduction of Fidesz following the elections, and the appointment of one of its members as Vice-Chair of the Committee in charge of defending civil liberties across the European Union ring an alarm bell.

EPP knows that for years and until now, the Fidesz government limits civic rights, including freedom of assembly and association, freedom of speech and of academic work, as well as it restricted the rule of law in the country. Civil Society Organisations in Hungary have faced pressure, public smear campaigns, restrictive legislation and cuts in funding from the government on partisan political ground. Fidesz has been vocal in relaying the campaigns, including at the European level. A procedure of breaching the Rule of Law according to Article 7 TEU is also underway.

All these facts are contradictory to the very objective of the work of the LIBE committee. They lead not to entrust one of its representatives as Vice-Chair of its committee.

In order not to undermine trust between the EPP group and Civil Society Organisations, we are calling upon the group to review their choice and to suggest a candidate whose record shows an open and transparent dialogue with civil society organisations and a strong commitment to democracy, rule of law, Human rights for all.

To conclude, we are expressing our gratitude to the members of the LIBE committee who have postponed the appointment of a Vice-Chair. We wish the LIBE committee be provided with a new nomination that is acceptable for all those who take the mandate of this Committee seriously.

[SIGN THE CALL](#)

LIST OF SIGNATORIES

European Civic Forum	Europe
Friends of the Earth Europe	Europe
Young European Federalists – JEF Europe	Europe
Transparency International EU	Europe
Civil College Foundation	Hungary
Association Européenne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (AEDH)	Europe
International Federation for	France

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Human Rights – FIDH

Hungarian Helsinki Committee	Hungary
Libre Art – Association	Hungary
Nyt Europa	Denmark
CDI Macedonia	Macedonia
New Europeans	Belgium
Europe & me	Germany
WWF Poland	Poland
Državljan D	Slovenia
Field of Dialogue Foundation	Poland
Open Republic – Association against Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia	Poland
Open Republic Association	Poland
Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights	Poland
Go limpets	Portugal
Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej (Association for Legal Intervention)	Poland
Stefan Batory Foundation	Poland
OSI – Sofia	Bulgaria
European movement	Italy
Solidarietà e Cooperazione CIPSI	Italy
Documenta – Center for Dealing with the Past	Croatia
Febea	Poland
Imaginarium Foundation	Poland
Klub Inteligencji Katolickiej	Poland
Frso	Poland
OKO.press	Poland
Fundacja Wspierania Twórczych Inicjatyw Lyada	Poland
Merkury Foundation	Poland
Obywatele RP	Poland
CIVIS	Poland
La Ligue de l’enseignement	France
Jugend- & Kulturprojekt e.V.	Germany
Stowarzyszenie EKOSKOP	Poland
National NGO coalition	Lituania
National Network of Educational NGOs	Lithuania
Access Info Europe	Spain /

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	Europe
Arci – Associazione Ricreativa Culturale Italiana	Italy
Youth LGBT organization Deystvie	Bulgaria
Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for Social Services – FONSS	Romania
Asociatia Betania	Romania
Ligue des droits de l’Homme	France
Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights – Osijek	Croatia
Akcja Demokracja	Poland
Autonomia	Poland
Committee for the Defence of Democracy / Komitet Obrony Demokracji /	Poland
Centrum pre filantropiu n.o.	Slovakia
ETP Slovakia	Slovakia
La Ligue de l’Enseignement – Fédération Pas de Calais	France
We Europeans	Germany
Cap Magellan	France
Hungarian Europe Society	Hungary
Towarzystwo Dziennikarskie (Society of Journalists)	Poland
Inicijativa za Razvoj i Saradnju – IDC Serbia	Serbia
A Buon Diritto	Italy
Lubuskie Stowarzyszenie na Rzecz Kobiet BABA	Poland
Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation	Bulgaria
Nadácia Centra pre filantropiu	Slovakia
Fundacja Szkoła z Klasą	Poland
eduRoma – Roma Education Project	Slovakia
Altánok s.r.o.	Slovakia
Not in our town civic platform	Slovakia
Foundation ClientEarth	Poland
Prawnicy dla Ziemi	Poland
Klub Mysli Spolecznej Inicjatywy	Poland
Information Society Developemnt Foundation	Poland

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Centrum komunitného organizovania	Slovakia
Association for Culture, Education and Communication (ACEC)	Slovakia
DRA e.V., Berlin	Germany
Pontis Foundation	Slovakia
Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law	Bulgaria
Europuls-Centre of European Expertise	Romania
Fundacja na rzecz Collegium Polonicum	Poland
Fundacja Aktywności Lokalnej / The Foundation of Local Acticity	Poland
Maria Galewska	Belgium
Platform for Supporting Health of Disadvantaged Groups (PPZZS)	Slovakia
Ekoinfocentrum ZOČSOP	Czech Republic
AEDE-France	France
Bulgarian Donors' Forum	Bulgaria
Maison de l'Europe des Yvelines	France
PDCS, Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia	Slovakia
Foundation for an Open Society DOTS	Latvia
Institute of Public Affairs	Poland
Nexes Interculturals de Joves per Europa	Spain
Polska Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana	Poland
Karpatská nadacia	Slovakia
Asociatia Sprijinirea Integrării Sociale (ASIS)	Romania
Power of Humanity Foundation	Hungary
Center for Independent Journalism	Romania
Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma	Croatia
Platon Part	Hungary
Open Dialogue Foundation	Belgium-

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	Poland
Ogólnopolski Strajk Kobiet Sanok	Poland
Foundation Solidarna	Croatia
MEMORIAL Deutschland	Germany
Nansen Dialogue Centre	Croatia
Volunteer centre Osijek	Croatia
Association for civil society development SMART	Croatia
PROTAGORA	Croatia
Centar za građanske inicijative Poreč	Croatia
Udruga Delta	Croatia
ADDP Association Defense de la Democratie en Pologne	France
Centre for Women's Studies Zagreb	Croatia
ODnowa	Poland
Asociatia Techsoup	Romania
Open Estonia Foundation	Estonia
Society for Sustainable Living in Slovakia	Slovakia
European Movement Forum	Poland
Post Bellum SK	Slovakia
SOSNA association	Slovakia
STUZ – SLOVAKIA	Slovakia
BlueLink Foundation	Bulgaria
OZ Za dostojnu Radvan	Slovakia
Bulgarian Environmental Partnership Foundation	Bulgaria
Polska Fundacja im Roberta Schumana	Poland
Cyklokoalicia NGO	Slovakia
Civil Society Development Foundation	Romania
Chaloupky o.p.s.	Czech Republic
VIA IURIS	Slovakia
Center for Public Innovation	Romania
Close to You Romania Foundation	Romania
Open Lithuania foundation	Lithuania

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Civic Dialogue Association	Poland
Center for Not-for-profit Law Romania	Romania
CENTRAS	Romania
Gabriela Tudor Foundation	Romania
Center for Equality Advancement	Lithuania
Open Society Foundation	Slovakia
One World Romania Association	România
ActiveWatch	Romania
Shipyard – Centre for Social Innovation and Research	Poland
Consiliul Tinerilor Instituționalizați	Romania
CROSOL – Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity	Croatia
Netherlands Helsinki Committee	The Netherlands
Orthodox Philanthropy Association in Alba Iulia	Romania
Russian LGBT Network	Russia
Impreuna Agency for Community Development	Romania
Society for Sustainable Living	Czech Republic
Asociatia Pro Democratia	Romania
Association for International Affairs	Czechia
Asociatia Mai Mult Verde	Romania
Expert Forum (EFOR)	Romania
Federation of Non-governmental Organisations for Children –	Romania
Fundatia Un copil, o speranta	Romania
Wolne Sądy	Poland
Opportunity Associates Romania	Romania
Front Europejski	Poland
Fundacja Centrum im. prof. Bronisława Geremka	Poland
Bratislava Policy Institute	Slovakia
ECPI-Euroregional Center for public Initiatives	Romania
Asociatia Centrul pentru Politici Durabile Ecopolis	Romania
Resource Center for Public Participation	Romania
Fundatia pentru Parteneriat	Romania

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SECS-Society for Education On Contraception and Sexuality	Romania
APADOR-CH	Romania
Human Rights Monitoring Institute	Lithuania
Možnosť voľby/Freedom of Choice	Slovakia
Friends of the Earth-CEPA	Slovakia
Ravnovesie NGO	Bulgaria
TERRA Mileniul III	Romania
Bulgarian Huntington Association	Bulgaria
GONG	Croatia
Estuar Foundation	Romania
Resource Center for Roma Communities	Romania
Centrul Roman de Politici Europene	Romania
Citizens Network Watchdog Poland	Poland
SAPI	Bulgaria
Assosiation of Bulgaria Coelic-Gluten free live	Bulgaria
European Exchange gGmbH	Germany
Nadácia Pontis/Pontis Foundation	Slovakia
Dizabnet Federation – The Network of Service providers for Persons with disabilities	Romania
Polish Donors Forum	Poland
Czech Women´s Lobby	Czech Republic
Asociatia Mediawise Society	Romania
KOD International	Brussels
ASSIFERO	Italy
Open Space Foundation	Bulgaria
Nadácia Milana Šimečku/Milan Šimečka Foundation	Slovakia
OSSF Prague	Czech Republic
Societatea Academica din Romania	Romania
New Horizons Foundation	Romania
European Movement Italy	Italy
Romanian Academic Society	Romania
Antigone	Italy

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Fundacja Kształcenia Ustawicznego PERITIA	Poland
OPEN MIND	Bulgaria
ePaństwo Foundation	Poland
Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation	Czech Republic
Laboratorio Politiche Pubbliche	Italy
Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights	Lithuania
Estonian Institute for Human Rights	Estonia
Centre for the Study of Democracy	Romania
NGO Center of European Initiatives	Estonia
Association for Community Relations	Romania
Center for Analysis and Socioeconomic Innovation (CAIES)	Romania
Asociația Platforma Oradea Civică 2017	Romania
Impact Diaspora	Romania
Zona Lovech	Bulgaria
Berretti Bianchi Onlus	Italy
Stowarzyszenie Intro	Poland
CESI – Center for Education, Counselling and Research	Croatia
Media Sud	Romania
Centar za Mirovne Studije	Croatia
Politiscopo	Croatia
Human Rights House Zagreb	Croatia
Geremek Foundation	Poland
ARCI Sud Sardegna	Italy
The Center for Independent Journalism	Romania
Eco-Breite	Romania
Institute for Public Policy	Romania
Asociația PortoJazzMusic	Romania
Klon/Jawor Association	Poland
Fundatia Inima de Copil	Romania
Creactiv	Romania
PNTCD MIZIL	Romania
Academia Civica Bihor	Romania
Asociația Federeii	Romania

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UAIC	Romania
Centar za zdravo odrastanje	Croatia
Civil Rights Project Sisak	Croatia
Iskorak	Croatia
Legal Resources Centre	Moldova
ODRAZ – Sustainable Community Development	Croatia