



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.4.2021
C(2021) 3102 final*

*Richárd HÖRCSIK
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
of the Országgyűlés
Kossuth Lajos tér 1-3.
HU – 1357 BUDAPEST*

*cc László KÖVÉR
President of the Országgyűlés
Kossuth Lajos tér 1-3.
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Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Országgyűlés for its Opinion on the Commission's 2021 Work Programme {COM(2020) 690 final}.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Országgyűlés to the work programme's emphasis on addressing the health, social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and on the legislative delivery of President von der Leyen's Political Guidelines. It shares the view of the Országgyűlés that the agreement on NextGenerationEU and the 2021-2027 long-term budget was instrumental in this endeavour.

The pandemic has further highlighted the need to establish a regulatory framework that allows for a smooth functioning of the digital single market, while guaranteeing EU citizens' right to privacy in a safe online environment. The Commission appreciates the support of the Országgyűlés to Union level legislation to make us fit for the digital age. With the proposed Digital Services Act¹ and Data Governance Act, our work on Artificial Intelligence and the intended proposal for a Data Act, many of the key proposals are on the table or will be delivered by the end of the year.

The Commission took note of the view of the Országgyűlés to make the start of negotiations on files on legal migration dependent on the results of the negotiations on the migration and asylum pact. It believes that with our ageing and shrinking population, legal migration pathways are fully in line with the EU's interests to attract skills and talent to the EU. Legal migrants have filled many gaps in Member States' labour

¹ COM(2020) 825 final

markets, including in sectors that are crucially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When endorsing the Union's new climate target in December 2020, Heads of State and Government recalled the need to ensure that follow-up legislative proposals ensure a fair sharing of effort among Member States. The Commission can assure the Országgyűlés of its commitment that its impact assessments will look at distributional impacts and fairness in support of its proposals that will be presented in the fit for 55 package later this year.

The Commission also acknowledges the concerns raised on EU and Member States competences, particularly in the context of the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and potential follow-up to the Conference on the Future of Europe. The European Pillar of Social Rights was proclaimed together by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission in 2017, and delivering on the principles and rights defined under the Pillar is a joint responsibility in full respect of Member States' competences, taking into account the diversity of situations across Member States.

I can assure the Országgyűlés that subsidiarity checks form an important part of our better law-making principles in all policy areas and that established Treaty procedures are followed wherever the EU legislates.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Országgyűlés in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*