

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY**

EUROPEAN POLICY GUIDELINES OF THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT

Budapest, August 2007

Hungary's vision on the European Union and its place in the European construction

- 1. For Hungary it is of basic importance to strengthen the European Union's ability to act in unity. Regarding further integration, the Union's openness and its role as a global player, it is crucially important to maintain the Union's ability to act in all important areas.**
- 2. Hungary is interested in a Union where Member States cooperate in order to reach common set goals, deepen their unity based on solidarity and exploit the advantages of a community sharing common values in order to increase the wellbeing and the security of the citizens.**
- 3. In our view, common values mean the respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights and the rights of minorities. Our and our neighbours' participation in the European integration also means the reunification of the Hungarian cultural nation within a European framework.**
- 4. Hungary sees the future of the Union as a path leading to a political union. Therefore, she is ready to cooperate closely with like-minded Member States. Cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs is a main area for achieving the above goal. Furthermore, Hungary pays special attention to the progress envisaged in the areas of research and development, energy policy, and common foreign and security policy.**
- 5. Enhanced cooperation, that is cooperation of some, but not all Member States in certain policy fields, can be the way forward to strengthen the Union insofar as it serves the long term interests of the whole Community and as it is open to all Member States. Enhanced cooperation is an efficient tool to deepen integration.**
- 6. It is Hungary's strategic objective to participate in such enhanced cooperation serving the deepening of the Community and the European construction.**
- 7. For Hungary the European Union is the framework for realising our national interests. Hungary enforces her national interests taking into consideration the Community's interests.**
- 8. Hungary initiates measures improving the standard of living and the quality of life of the Union's citizens and in developing community policies. Hungary seeks answers to the internal and external challenges of the Union in cooperation with the other Member States and is ready to take an active role in improving Europe's citizens' security in the broad sense.**
- 9. The enlargement of the Union is a question of moral and political responsibility based on the openness of the Union and the fulfilment of the accession criteria. The Union is open for those European countries that share the objectives of the Union as a community of values and satisfy the political, economic and institutional conditions of accession; and agree with and fulfil the principle of solidarity between Member States.**

10. In addition to deepening of integration and enforcing of community policies Hungary also advocates the strengthening of Trans-Atlantic cooperation.

Principles and priorities of the Government's European policy

The principles of the Government's European policy are determined by

- the **community of values** of the Member States,
- the **wellbeing** of European citizens and
- their **security** in the broad sense.

Based on these principles four priorities can be formulated with special regard on Hungary's interests as a Member State.

1. **Unity and cooperation.** By unity of the Union we mean the basic objective to preserve the advantages of the Community based on common values and to be capable to deepen cooperation among the Member States. This does not exclude the establishment of enhanced cooperations between Member States given that they are open for all Member States and serve the long term interests of the whole Community.

It is our interest that the Union remains a community based on common values and objectives. Hungary's goal is to actively contribute to the Community's efficient, democratic and transparent functioning.

Hungary wishes to be part of the cooperations serving the perspectives of the Union's political integration.

Hungary will join the Eurozone and the Schengen zone as soon as possible.

2. **Modernisation and competitiveness.** Membership in the Union must have positive effects on the everyday life conditions of the citizens, on the improvement of their living standards and on the success of enterprises. Therefore, it is necessary to have a successful Union facing the global competition of the world economy, guaranteeing the foundations of the European social model and providing for the convergence of its Member States.

It is no doubt that Union membership, the single market and the community policies directly contribute to the country's modernisation, its economic cohesion, the improvement of the quality of life of its citizens, the provision of equal opportunities and the conservation of the natural environment.

Hungary will play an initiating role in strengthening the instruments and the common policies serving the Union's competitiveness. The Government's reform policy, its measures improving the country's competitiveness and its efforts contributing to the global success of the community of Member States function as a guideline in the debate on the European Union's future. Hungary contributes to the shaping of community policies and when necessary to the establishment of new ones.

Hungary wishes to preserve the EU's long term cohesion policy aiming at the economic development of regions and Member States and providing for the strengthening of the competitiveness of the whole Community. It is of high importance that the standards of living and the quality of life of the countryside in Hungary improves, and the Union's agricultural policy directly contributes hitherto and remains a community competence.

Hungary is interested in broadening the community instruments as a response to the global challenges faced by the Union. There should be a sustainable common energy policy based on solidarity, strengthening the security of supply, supporting the development of infrastructure. Increasing competitiveness is a highly important element of innovation; therefore the common research and development policy needs to be widened and strengthened.

In order to create a European Union successful in global competition Hungary gives high significance to the accomplishment of the four freedoms.

- 3. Consolidation and openness.** The Union must strengthen its internal unity to be able to exploit the significant economic and political reserves of the enlarged Community. The openness of the Union, the development of its system of external relations is an important interest. The basis for further enlargement is the adoption to the community of values and the full compliance with the accession criteria by the countries willing to join.

It is our interest to contribute to the internal cohesion of the Union and to the strengthening of its ability to act politically at the global stage. In addition, it is our fundamental interest that the Union preserves its openness and provides for a genuine European perspective for the European countries sharing the same values.

Hungary has a special mission to support the European integration process of the Balkan area.

- 4. Security.** The Union and its Member States have to be able to establish conditions guaranteeing citizens' security in the broad sense.

It is Hungary's interest that the Union membership strengthens the sense of security of its citizens in their everyday life. Hungary's objective is to establish the area without internal borders based on freedom, security and justice. Hungary will play an initiating role in making the Community functioning without any internal or external threats, within safe external borders. Hungary is interested in the deepening of cooperation between Member States in the area of common foreign and security policy.

Time horizon of the European policy

The principles above form the basis of Hungary's policy on the European Union until **2013-2014**, the next programming period of community policies and end of the next European Parliament/Commission cycle.