(English version)

Question for written answer E-000446/26
to the Commission

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(4 February 2026)

Subject: Mayor of Budapest fined and charged without trial for organising a Pride march in the EU

On the 18 March 2025, Hungary adopted a law restricting the freedom of assembly and *de facto* banning Pride marches. On 28 June 2025, the Mayor of Budapest organised the biggest public assembly in Hungary since the fall of communism, taking upon himself the legal uncertainty that civil society organisations were initially faced with. Legal uncertainty that the organiser of the Pécs Pride event is still facing.

Today, on 28 January 2026, the mayor is being charged and fined without trial for organising a Pride march in the EU.

1. How does the Commission respond to the fact that these charges, as well the ones that the organiser of the Pécs Pride event is under investigation for, are based on an amendment which further exacerbates the effects of the Anti-LGBTIQ Propaganda Law and the Defence of Sovereignty Law, both of which are subject to ongoing infringement procedures?

2. Do these developments, whereby EU citizens are being charged for organising Pride marches prompt the Commission to reconsider the need for interim measures?

3. Has the Commission expressed its concerns towards the Hungarian Government over the charges pressed on the Mayor of Budapest and their likely incompatibility with EU law, and will it take enforcement action following the prosecution of the Mayor of Budapest?

Submitted: 4.2.2026

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(10 April 2026)

The Commission recalls, as it has done on many occasions, its support to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) community in Hungary and in all Member States and has expressed full solidarity with the Pride events.

The Commission is aware of the developments in Hungary described by the Honourable Members, concerning the bill of indictments against the Mayor of Budapest and the organiser of the Pécs' Pride event, as well as the fine request.

The Commission is also aware that on 5 March 2026, the Pest Central District Court suspended the criminal proceedings against the Budapest Mayor and requested that the Hungarian Constitutional Court examine whether certain legal provisions applied in the case, including the so-called 'Child Protection' Act, comply with constitutional principles and EU law.

Similarly, on 10 March 2026, the criminal proceedings against the organiser of the Pécs pride event were suspended as a local court also turned to the Constitutional Court. The Commission will continue to follow the situation.

An assessment of the Hungarian law related to the freedom of assembly is ongoing. The Commission has requested clarifications from the Hungarian authorities and is analysing the response received.

The Commission has already brought in 2022 an infringement case to the Court of Justice of the EU against Hungary on the same 'Child Protection' Act ([1]).

In 2024, the Commission also referred Hungary to the Court of Justice, deeming that the law on the Protection of National Sovereignty breaches EU law ([2]), and the Court agreed to the Commission's request to deal with this case in an expedited procedure.

These two cases are currently pending before the Court of Justice of the EU.

([1]) Case C-769/22, https://infocuria.curia.europa.eu/tabs/affair?sort=AFF_NUM-DESC&searchTerm=%22C-769%2F22%22.
([2]) Case C-829/24, https://infocuria.curia.europa.eu/tabs/affair?sort=AFF_NUM-DESC&searchTerm=%22C-829%2F24%22&publishedId=C-829%2F24.