



Right to Reply Delegation of Hungary

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On 13th of June, the Hungarian Parliament adopted an act on the transparency of organizations receiving support from foreign entities. The main objective of the new legislation is to ensure full transparency of civil organizations and it does not constitute an obstacle to the work of NGOs. The act is not targeting a specific group of NGOs, but is applicable to all 60.000 civil organizations operating in Hungary. Restrictions are neither among its goals, nor of its tools.

In order to bring the act in line with international commitments, constructive dialogues have been conducted on various fora; among others, the Venice Commission, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Commission of the EU, and the ODIHR.

The Venice Commission in its opinion recognized that the law addresses a current problem, and that transparency pursued by the Legislator is a legitimate goal. It welcomed, among others, the strong involvement of the judiciary in the process, and the fact that there will be no separately established registry for this purpose.

We also carried out consultations with the experts of ODIHR in Budapest with the involvement of main stakeholders from the Government, the National Assembly, and civil society.

Finally, let me stress again, that the uninterrupted operation of all civil organizations is guaranteed by the Fundamental Law of Hungary and by several other legal instruments. We believe, that the newly adopted act is proportional, non-discriminatory, and is in compliance with all international obligations, and does indeed represent valuable examples from other countries' legislation.