



PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Marko Zidanšek,

President of the Slovenska ljudska stranka, member of the European People's Party

Ljubljana

Budapest, 20th April 2017

Dear Mr. President,

I am sending you attached a copy of my letter to Mr. Frank Engel, for your kind information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'V. Orbán'.

ORBÁN Viktor





PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Frank Engel,
Member of the European Parliament

Brussels

Budapest, 19th April 2017

Dear Mr. Engel,

Hungary and the Hungarian people always think of the leaders and citizens of Luxembourg with great respect and appreciation, since we still remember that after the decades of Soviet occupation and Communist dictatorship, you sincerely supported and helped Hungary to reclaim her rightful place in the family of the people of the European Union. The support that your party, our sister party provided us, with the leadership of Jean-Claude Juncker during this important time was vital for us. This historic friendship is the bond that entitles me to address you in this letter.

Dear Mr. MEP,

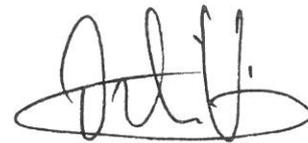
You have called upon our party – Fidesz – a loyal and dedicated member of the European People’s Party, to leave the community of the EPP. Your demand sparked intense emotions, since we consider your proposal and your reasoning unjust and inequitable. I would hereby like to make it clear that Fidesz will not leave the family of the European People’s Party, where we were invited by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and admitted by the presidency of the great Wilfried Martens.

The values we commonly share and protect can lead us to different conclusions in certain matters. There are obvious differences between us in the assessment of the current situation and the desirable future of Europe. We are convinced that such differences of opinion are inevitable in such a broad and colourful family of parties

as the EPP. Such a grand party is by its own nature fragmented: it has a left wing, a centre and a right wing. I am convinced that this diversity does not make us weaker, on the contrary, it makes us colourful, strong, and capable of addressing any challenge that comes our way. The document summarising our common goals, adopted during our recent party congress in Malta is proof of this. It is the basis of our unity, created with long and hard combined efforts.

The European Union, its institutions, including our alliance is built on reasoning, debate and open exchange of views. We would have never ventured to demand your departure, merely because you are on the left wing of our alliance, while we are on the right wing. Our views and reform proposals on the future of Europe are legitimate European positions. I suggest that we discuss the differences we have between us, instead of accusations, exclusion, and calls for departure. It would be more worthy of our great alliance. We are here to stay, and ready for an open debate.

Yours sincerely,



ORBÁN Viktor

