



JOINT STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMICS OF THE V4 PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBERS

on the topics of hydrogen-based economy, energy security, reduction of energy costs, the tax system and the reduction of contributions on wages in light of competitiveness

Budapest, 10 December 2021

As the committees of the V4 parliamentary chambers responsible for the topics discussed,

I. In relation to hydrogen-based economy, energy security and reducing and sustaining low energy costs, we jointly

- (1) SUPPORT the development of regional cooperation in building a hydrogen ecosystem, creating energy security, reducing energy costs and keeping energy prices affordable;
- (2) RECOGNISE the potential role of hydrogen in achieving climate neutrality by 2050, and we are READY TO COOPERATE in creating a hydrogen ecosystem that is innovative, competitive and has a high potential for new green jobs;
- (3) welcome the legislation on strengthening the development of hydrogen infrastructure, and at the same time, we CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT that the principle of technology neutrality is fully respected, and hydrogen produced by any low-carbon technology is supported;
- (4) consider it important that national specificities, including the right of Member States to define their own energy mix as laid down in the Treaty, are duly taken into account, therefore we STAND for maintaining the widest possible flexibility with a view to national measures, in line with the principle of subsidiarity;
- (5) with regard to the so-called EU taxonomy rules defining a list of environmentally sustainable activities, we UNDERLINE the fundamental importance of nuclear energy and natural gas, acknowledging that they should also be included in the list of the Taxonomy Regulation;
- (6) while continuing to attach top priority to energy security, we STRIVE for both decarbonisation and increased security of energy supply simultaneously;
- (7) ACKNOWLEDGE the role of energy efficiency measures not only in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but also in mitigating energy costs for consumers and businesses, being one of the most important issues;
- (8) SUPPORT joint thinking and action, as we cannot act in isolation, and we MUST WORK TOGETHER to build a secure and sustainable economy in the region and in Europe as well.

- (9) CALL ON the European Commission to address the issue of the high price of emission allowances as soon as possible and to make use of the possibilities offered by the EU ETS Directive (2003/87/EC), for example, in its Article 29a. We PROPOSE that consideration be given to the modification or even the suspension of the Emissions Trading System in EU Member States with third parties until the problem related to market trading in CO₂ emission allowances, which causes the drastic increase in their prices, is resolved.

II. In relation to the tax system and the reduction of contributions on wages in light of competitiveness, we jointly

- (10) POINT OUT that establishing efficient, competitive and family-friendly taxation can be a goal for all countries concerned;
- (11) AGREE that an environment of lower taxes and contributions encourages investments, makes companies more competitive, and allows for wage increases;
- (12) STRESS that reducing the burden on employers is also crucial in terms of the competitiveness of countries;
- (13) STATE that the creation of adequate fiscal space is essential for efficiency and tax cuts;
- (14) EMPHASISE that forward-looking and ambitious economy whitening measures are key to creating fiscal space; and
- (15) CALL ATTENTION to the fact that active consultation with social partners concerned is also of paramount importance to achieve the objectives.

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Chair of the Economic Affairs
Committee of the National Council of
the Slovak Republic

Erik Bánki

Chair of the Committee on Economics
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Chair of the Committee on Energy,
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