



**Doc. 15043**

28 January 2020

## Investigations against Hungarian opposition parties

### Written declaration No. 700

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This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

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We, the undersigned, declare the following:

On 30 October 2019, the Crime Branch of the Hungarian National Tax and Customs Administration (NAV) raided the offices of the opposition party Momentum Movement. The authorities also searched the offices of Momentum's bookkeeping and auditing company. The measure is based on an accusation by the State Audit Office of Hungary (ÁSZ) to find and secure evidence and documents for an ongoing criminal investigation into suspected fiscal fraud regarding Momentum's national campaign of 2018.

This measure against Momentum is a cause for serious concern. The party already proved to ÁSZ that they spent public money legally during the national campaign of 2018. As a consequence, ÁSZ withdrew the accusation. The renewed involvement and investigation one year later is concerning, especially because other Hungarian opposition parties were also accused of budget fraud.

Considering the national government party FIDESZ's losses in recent regional elections, the Council of Europe should call the Hungarian authorities to exclude any political motivation or influence behind administrative or criminal investigations against opposition parties. The rule of law, including an independent judiciary, must be respected by all Council of Europe member States.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

KUHLE Konstantin, Germany, ALDE  
BECHT Olivier, France, ALDE  
BEUS RICHEMBERGH Goran, Croatia, ALDE  
BRUIJN-WEZEMAN Reina, de, Netherlands, ALDE  
BULAI Iulian, Romania, ALDE  
COURSON Yolaine, de, France, ALDE  
GEERDINK Paulien, Netherlands, ALDE  
GOLUBEVA Marija, Latvia, ALDE  
HOFFMANN Christoph, Germany, ALDE  
KAMOWSKI Catherine, France, ALDE  
KRAVCHUK Yevheniia, Ukraine, ALDE  
KROSS Eerik-Niiles, Estonia, ALDE  
LEGUILLE BALLOY Martine, France, ALDE  
LINK Michael, Germany, ALDE  
MARUKYAN Edmon, Armenia, ALDE  
OLLDAG Kathrine, Denmark, ALDE  
POLIAČIK Martin, Slovak Republic, ALDE  
RAUCH Isabelle, France, ALDE  
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC  
SCHMIDT Frithjof, Germany, SOC  
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC  
STIENEN Petra, Netherlands, ALDE  
WASERMAN Sylvain, France, ALDE  
WONNER Martine, France, ALDE

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Total = 24

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group