



**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL OF HUNGARY
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Press Release

**Péter Polt Dr. Prosecutor General received the delegation of the CONT
(The Committee on Budgetary Control of the EU Parliament) in his Office**

Budapest, 19th September 2017

On 18th September Péter Polt Dr. Prosecutor General received in his Office the delegation of the Committee on Budgetary Control of the EU Parliament led by Mrs Inge Gräßle. During their meeting they reviewed the activity of prosecutors regarding the EU-supports, some concrete cases, the relationship of the Hungarian Prosecution Service with OLAF and EUROJUST, the question of European Public Prosecution Office (EPPO) and the development of the criminal cases of corruption.

Péter Polt Dr. Prosecutor General expressed explicitly for the members of the delegation that the Hungarian Prosecution Service is committed to investigate the indications and recommendations relating to EU-supports.

Having regard to the above mentioned the Prosecutor General has an excellent and continuous relationship with OLAF which was confirmed by the OLAF Director General, Giovanni Kesler himself in their meeting on 7th February 2017 and his letter written to the Prosecutor General on 17th February 2017 after the meeting.

As the Prosecution Service consistently emphasized in its announcements and declarations – against false statements of some politicians – *the Prosecution Service ordered the investigation in all cases in which the OLAF turned to the Office of the Prosecutor General with judicial recommendation or indication, or when the investigation was in progress, the OLAF recommendation was attached to the documents of the investigation and was evaluated in the course of the investigation.*

When in a case opened on the basis of the recommendation of the OLAF and the suspicion of bribery arises in addition to the budget fraud, the investigation is extended to that circumstance too as it happened in the case of Metro Line 4.

As a results of the investigations opened on the basis of 33 recommendations and 4 indications of the OLAF the Prosecution Service filed indictments in 7 cases. Beyond this the Prosecution Service filed indictment following an investigation conducted on the basis of the OLAF final report of 2011.

So having regard to the entire period *2 convictions were brought by the court from the total 8 indictments*. No judgements have been made in additional 6 cases. 7 cases were terminated. As far as all the other cases concerned the investigation is going on.

This result of the criminal procedures opened on the basis of the OLAF recommendations, indications and final reports – the rate of 53,3% of indictments and terminations – *exceeds the rate of the EU*. (According to the OLAF report of 2016 the EU rate is 44%, without the SAPARD-cases is 50%.)

The Prosecutor General spoke about the results of the two investigations relating to the *Metro Line 4*. Until now two suspects have been interrogated by the Central Chief Prosecution Office of Investigation. In the near future further substantial results can be expected in this investigation – thanks to the direct cooperation with British authorities. The police investigation related to the contracts of Metro Line 4 is also rigorously going on.

Mr. Peter Polt Dr. made known to the members of the delegation that Hungary is explicitly active actor of the work of the EUROJUST, or of international joint investigation teams which are coordinated and financed by EUROJUST. These international joint investigation teams are the most effective tools ever against the cross-border organized criminals. This was mutually confirmed with the chair of the EUROJUST, Mrs. Michele Coninsx during her visit in Hungary on 14th July 2017.

Relating to the European Public Prosecution Office (EPPO) the Prosecutor General informed his negotiating partners that the Hungarian Prosecution Service took part actively in the professional preparatory work of the EPPO. Mr. Péter Polt Dr. recalled his proposal for a network model which attracted great deal of attention at international level. He indicated that the accession to the European Public Prosecution Office (EPPO) is not a question of law application. From a professional point of view strengthening of the EUROJUST and application of joint investigation teams in wider fields can be a solution for this question.

At the end of the meeting Mr. Péter Polt Dr. reminded Benedek Jávor EP representative, who raised the issue, that prosecutorial actions were more active before 2010 according to an internet news portal, that the result of the target test of the Office of the Prosecutor General relating to this question refuted this statement by concrete data which was published on the home page of the Prosecution Service on 1st June 2015:

<http://ugyeszseg.hu/a-legfobb-ugyeszseg-sajtokozlomenye-a-korrupcios-buncselekmenyek-elleni-fellepes-atfogo-vizsgalatarol/>

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