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It is a great pleasure and honor for me to present the goals and priorities of Hungarian foreign policy at a University which is linked to Hungary and Central Europe in a good number of ways.

The will of American-Hungarian 'newspaper magnate', Joseph Pulitzer significantly promoted the establishment of the Faculty of Journalism at the Columbia University. It was also here that the first Hungarian language department in the US was set up in 1939, along with one of the two Centers of Hungarian Studies established after World War II. I also need to highlight the work sponsored by Columbia University in promoting Central European studies through the publication of the series of East European Monographs.

The new Hungarian Government sees its historic mission in accomplishing Hungary's Euro-Atlantic integration. Since 1999 we have been a member of NATO. So the No. 1 goal now is to join the European Union. No. 2 is to enhance stability in Central and Eastern Europe through maintaining and developing good relations with our neighbors. No. 3 is to support the ethnic Hungarians living in neighboring countries to have a better life, to enjoy the rights of minorities in compliance with the European standards and to maintain their identity. We pay special attention to maintain a balance and harmony among these priorities of the Hungarian foreign policy.

Hungary has got to realize these goals in an international environment that has undergone major changes during the past 10-15 years. The transatlantic community has to face new risks and challenges in the 21st century. NATO is seeking new members, new defence capabilities and new partners. The European Union that has developed into a well-functioning economic and monetary union, now is moving towards a political union of almost 30 countries.

1.) The Hungarian government supports the open-door policy of NATO. We want to see our neighbors in the same security system that we belong to, therefore we are promoting the further enlargement of the Alliance and the extension of its partnership programs.

NATO's enlargement in 1999 admitted the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland. It was an important step towards an enlarged transatlantic community, which stands on the basis of democracy, the rule of law, free enterprise and collective defence. The enlargement has also contributed to the security and stability in Central and Eastern Europe.

The enlargement has strengthened the transatlantic link. The new members, like Hungary, are strongly committed to a strong transatlantic relationship. We firmly support the U.S. engagement on the European continent.

The experience of the first three and a half years, that have passed since the admission of Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic, has clearly proven the legitimacy and relevance of NATO's eastward enlargement.

The participation of the new members in the Kosovo operation of the Alliance, in IFOR/SFOR, KFOR and in Task Force Fox in Macedonia has proved that we are ready and able to contribute to the success of joint NATO actions. Hungary along with the other two new members is taking an active part in the fight against international terrorism. With the ongoing reform of our military, we contribute to the renewal of the Alliance and its defence capabilities. The aim of the new government is to increase the efficiency of the Hungarian Army focusing on capabilities. We are now checking the list of commitments, having in mind that a few implemented commitments worth more than plenty of non or partly implemented ones. We are to increase the defense-budget from 1,61 % of the GDP in 2002 to 1,81 % in 2006.

The challenges and risks NATO is facing today can be tackled effectively only by an Alliance which is bigger and stronger than ever before. The candidates for NATO membership are already acting as quasi-members as their contribution to ongoing missions shows. Therefore, further enlargement constitutes part and parcel of the Alliance's efforts and policy of adaptation to the new security environment.

In the new security environment the key issue is the new capabilities. These are needed:

- to counter and defeat the new threats, no matter where they may come from,
- to keep our Alliance militarily effective and politically credible,
- to keep the transatlantic link alive and relevant. This means that the European allies have to make more efforts to diminish the capabilities gap between Europe and the USA. Secretary General Lord Robertson's mini-program to that end is a promising proposal that will help to achieve greater progress after Prague.

Hungary, for its part, is in favor of a robust enlargement. This round of enlargement will take place in a more relaxed atmosphere due to the positive changes in the NATO-Russia relationship. In Prague, invitations should be sent to all aspirant countries that are ready and able to fulfill the criteria and requirements of NATO membership. The Alliance has also got to make sure that aspirants that will not yet receive an invitation will not leave Prague empty-handed, either. An explicit message is needed that enlargement will continue.

2.) For Hungary, joining the family of developed Western democracies has been a multiphased process. Hungary was the first ex-Warsaw Pact country that was admitted by the Council of Europe for its convincing democratic performance, as early as in 1990. Appreciating the country's successful economic transformation, OECD granted Hungary full membership in 1996. We joined NATO in 1999, so the accession to the European Union remained the final act of complete integration.

We stand at the threshold of a reuniting Europe, for the first time in history by peaceful means. The new continent will comprise all European states that are willing and able to join. Our task today is nothing less than to make the enlarged Europe a success. In order to accomplish this goal we will have to build on the best ever prepared accession and overcome the remaining psychological barriers, too.

We want to join the Union at the earliest date and under the best possible conditions. We expect to complete the accession talks by the end of this year and to become a full

member by the 1st of January 2004. We are striving for full-fledged membership on the basis of equal treatment, equal rights and equal obligations.

Insofar as the policies of the enlarged EU are concerned, we are strongly convinced that the US and Europe has many more converging interests than diverging ones. Therefore we support a policy approach where any potential point of tension is treated according to its relevance. We must not allow the difficulties to cast a long lasting shadow on the fundamentally positive and stable transatlantic relationship.

At the same time, the European agenda is more complex than ever before.

The EU has to achieve a sustainable growth rate while preserving and enhancing social cohesion in both the current and future member states. In this context, it seems promising that the Lisbon European Council's guidelines focus on creating „the most competitive knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010". I would like to see this progress accompanied by the modernization of the European social model, preserving the actively functioning welfare state.

Besides the dilemma of „economic growth vs. social cohesion“ the European debate includes yet two other important aspects: „national vs. European identity“ as well as new expectations regarding the efficiency of institutions and decision-making.

The enlargement of the Union will further enhance the national, ethnic and cultural diversity within the organization. Rather than being in contradiction, national and European identities complement each other. We are for a European Union where each and every nation is able to preserve its identity. Bigger and smaller countries alike should play their full role in the decision-making process of the EU.

There is an intensive debate taking place in the member countries of the EU on the future of integration. The Future of Europe started off as an intellectual exercise mainly reserved for politicians, who presented different visions for the enlarged Union. But recently a new round of the debate commenced on the workings of the European integration and its political horizon, that involves not only politicians, but think-thanks, NGO-s and individuals alike. This wide participation is indeed vital in order to strengthen the political legitimacy of the future Union while deciding about the most efficient working methods for an EU of 25+ countries.

The preparations undertaken by the EU has been likened to the Philadelphia Convention that set out the establishment of the United States of America. It is not by coincidence that the body entrusted with presenting a vision for the united Europe is called Convention. I believe that the EU is an organization of special nature, therefore it will always rely both on intergovernmental as well as on supranational (federative) policies. The most important challenges is to find the magic mix of these two and the appropriate institutional framework that enable the EU to cope with an enlargement that will almost double the number of member states. The Convention is the forerunner of the enlarged Union, since member states and candidates can contribute to its work on an equal footing. The Hungarian Government greatly values this opportunity, since it is the best way of planning a common house and a common future for all of us.

3.) Hungary is strongly committed to strengthening stability and good neighborly relations in her closer region. The new government wants to use its status acquired in the Euro-

Atlantic community, the results achieved by Hungary in the process of EU-enlargement and our internationally renowned economic performance to help strengthen stability in Central and Eastern Europe rather than pursuing regional power ambitions.

We are linked to our neighbors in a number of ways: long common borders, economic interdependence, cultural and historic links. The sizeable number of Hungarians living beyond our borders in the neighbouring countries and their national minorities living in Hungary. The common tasks of infrastructural development and environmental protection, as well as our quest for membership in the Euro-Atlantic organizations. We are convinced that success in regional cooperation is the key to successful participation in the Euro-Atlantic organizations, and the enlargement of NATO and EU will lend further relevance to our relations with the region of Central Europe.

In our opinion, the new geopolitical situation and the enlargement of the Euro-Atlantic organizations create challenges that are best tackled through a renewed regional dialogue and partnership. Therefore, we want to take greater advantage of the existing bi- and multilateral frameworks. Special attention should be paid to organizations that include countries from the region at different levels of preparedness for the Euro-Atlantic integration. The best example of this form of co-operation is the Central European Initiative. As an active supporter of the Stability Pact for South-East Europe, Hungary will continue to play a pivotal role in the process of democratization and stabilization of our southern neighbors through the „Szeged Process”. Apart from interstate relations, we are encouraging the establishment of co-operating networks among local governments and NGOs. The various sub regional activities have already created more than 50 cross-border, inter-city and Euro-regional groupings with Hungarian participation.

Hungary has a strong interest in the accession of its neighbors, as well as of the countries of the broader region to the Euro-Atlantic structures. We envisage a common future for our region within the framework of European integration. Hungary thus wishes to develop co-operation on the basis of European values, mutual understanding and confidence, taking into account the specific features of the individual partner countries and our relations with them.

4.) The Hungarian Government feels responsibility for ethnic Hungarians living in neighboring countries and will keep assisting them to prosper in their homeland.

The improvement of their situation, their genuine equality of rights and chances as well as the preservation of their ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity is considered a national cause. In the course of fulfilling this political and moral obligation, the Hungarian Government is making all efforts to strengthen good relations with the neighbouring countries, based on mutual confidence and common interests.

The Hungarian Government is also aware that the situation of Hungarians living in neighboring countries will only be settled in a long-lasting and reassuring manner within the framework of European integration.

5.) Today and in the years to come, the dominant feature of the international environment is the challenge of globalization and the new security risks.

Globalization is not a new phenomenon. What is new, is its acceleration and the intensification of its impacts. Globalization is an objective process that cannot be

„contained”, the least by such small and open economies as Hungary is. With the risks entailed, it also offers unprecedented opportunities. Our attitude towards globalization is constructive and at the same time critical: we want to utilize its advantages and minimize the harmful effects within the limits of our possibilities.

Growing attention is devoted to the new type of global risks, posed, increasingly, by non-state actors. The brutal terrorist attack on September 11 last year painfully showed that new risks cannot be handled by traditional means. Security policy has to be completely re-considered.

Effective global solutions will only come from multilateral efforts. It is the common cause of all nations to create a safer world. We must intensify inter-cultural dialogue, and deepen co-operation. The underlying causes of international crime and terrorism have to be properly examined and understood. The international community will have to find appropriate ways and means to treat them.

This fight must be continued in the widest possible coalition. Transatlantic partnership, cooperation between NATO and EU is absolutely vital for the success of the efforts to strengthen global security. We need a strong and enlarged Alliance against terrorism with two stable pillars: the US, and Europe acting together. We will do our utmost to attain this goal.

Hungary, in accordance with its geopolitical situation and its economic and political strength, has been and will be participating in the fight against international terrorism. Under the political leadership of the US and mirroring the set of measures adopted by the EU, Hungary consistently implements her national anti-terrorism program. As part of our efforts we organize regional training courses for anti-terrorist experts from Central and South-east Europe. We also support the build-up of the new, centrally-controlled Afghan military forces and the efforts of Georgia to eradicate terrorist bases on its territory by providing military equipment for their disposal. We are ready to explore new ways to intensify our contribution to the fight against terrorism in other areas, too.

Yesterday, not only the American people but the whole world remembered the brutal terrorist attack of September 11 which hit New York and Washington but were aimed against the civilized world.

On this occasion the international community should draw the lessons of the tragedy. The first is that international terrorism is one of the most dangerous challenges we face. The second is that only a world-wide coalition can successfully combat the evil. The third is that the answer should be much broader and complex than military. We have to cut the financial resources of the terrorist groups and we have to discourage any state to provide a safe harbour for them. And last but not least, the international community should combat the hotbeds of terrorism, such as poverty, extremist views, hatred, dictatorial régimes and promote economic development, democracy and rule of law. This is the way I understand the legacy of the victims of September 11, 2001.

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