**Hungary: "We must be able to sanction governments that breach the fundamental values of the EU"**

**Original Script Date:** December 16, 2015

**Script Version:** 1

**Locations:** European Parliament, Strasbourg

**Dates Shot:** December 15, 2015, December 16, 2015

**Sound:** natural with English speech, natural with Hungarian speech

**Duration:**  02:30

**Source:** S&D group

**Restriction:** none

**Intro**

*Strasbourg, 16th of December.*  The S&D Group today voted in favour of a resolution calling for an investigation into violations of fundamental rights by the government of Victor Orban in Hungary. Unfortunately an amendment calling for the triggering of Article 7 of the Treaty of the European Union, which could have led to future sanctions against the Hungarian government, failed to get a majority after being blocked by the combined forces of the extreme right and the EPP.

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* Extracts of the plenary vote on the follow-up of the resolution on Hungary
* Interview with S&D Vice-President, Péter Niedermüller (audio English / Hungarian)
* Interview with S&D spokesperson on civil liberties, Birgit Sippel (audio English)
* Extracts of May 2015 plenary debate with Hungarian Prime minister Viktor Orban and EU Commission's Vice-President Frans Timmermans

**Shotlist**

FRANCE, STRASBOURG (DECEMBER 16, 2015) (SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - ACCESS ALL)

1. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG (EXTERIOR)
2. CUTAWAY: VARIOUS OF THE VOTE ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN HUNGARY
3. PETER NIEDERMULLER (S&D MEP, HU) SAYING (ENGLISH / HUNGARIAN):

“We would like to give a very clear message, that the politic of the current Hungarian government in not acceptable for us. This is a European issue, Hungary is a member state of the European Union, and therefore it is very important that its government take into consideration the fundamental rights, the human rights and the rule of law.”

1. CUTAWAY: PETER NIEDERMULLER TALKING TO A JOURNALIST
2. PETER NIEDERMULLER (S&D MEP, HU) SAYING (ENGLISH / HUNGARIAN):

“I think the European Commission has to show some political courage, it has to recognise the current situation in Hungary, what we have to monitor and what is happening in the country. It is not just a political game: ‘we don’t know, we will see what happens…’ No. The situation is very clear. It is a serious and systematic breech of human rights.“

1. CUTAWAY: BIRGIT SIPPEL TALKING TO A JOURNALIST
2. BIRGIT SIPPEL (S&D MEP, DE) SAYING (ENGLISH):

“We had reasons to criticise of the Hungarian government again and again. We started with the freedom of media, the independency of the digital system, we had some criticism in the area of asylum policies, and a lot of other things, and in addition, they ended up with a debate on the death penalty. ”

1. CUTAWAY: BIRGIT SIPPEL TALKING TO A JOURNALIST
2. BIRGIT SIPPEL (S&D MEP, DE) SAYING (ENGLISH):

“There is a risk of an ongoing breech of fundamental rights and the rule of law and that is why we have to start a procedure, at least to think about sanctions that could be given on that government.“

1. CUTAWAY: BIRGIT SIPPEL TALKING TO A JOURNALIST

**Story**

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