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*Brussels, 15 April 2013*  
*MS/MSH/fm (2013)269032*

*Dear Sirs,*

*I would like to thank you for your letter of 26 February 2013 concerning the Fourth amendment to the Fundamental Law of Hungary, which was adopted on 11 March 2013, and for your detailed assessment of this amendment from the perspective of the principle of the rule of law and of fundamental rights.*

*As stated by President Barroso, the Commission considers that the Fourth amendment to the Fundamental Law contains several provisions which raise concerns with respect to the principle of the rule of law, EU law and Council of Europe standards. The Commission and the Council of Europe (Venice Commission) are currently making a detailed assessment of these amendments. Your assessment may be particularly helpful in this respect.*

*The Commission has also taken note of the confirmation made by the Hungarian Prime Minister Orbán, in his letter addressed to President Barroso of 8 March 2013, of the full commitment of the Hungarian Government and Parliament to fully respect European Union values and law.*

*Let me underline that the Commission, as guardian of the Treaties, will if necessary make full use of its possibilities under the Treaties to make sure that EU law is respected.*

*I would like to thank you once again for sharing your concerns with us concerning the situation in Hungary.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Ms András Kádár, Co-chair  
Hungarian Helsinki Committee*

*Mr László Majtényi, Chair  
Eötvös Károly Institute*

*Mr Gábor Attila Tóth, President  
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