



PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker,

President of the European Commission

Brussels

Budapest, 31st August 2017

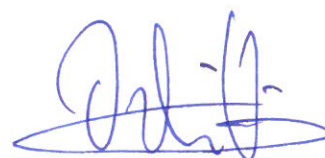
Dear Mr. President,

I am contacting you regarding the protection of the external borders of the European Union and European solidarity. As you well know, Hungary has been following the Schengen rules since the very beginning of the migration crisis, requiring the protection of the external borders. With the construction of the fence, training and placing three thousand border-hunters into active service, our country is protecting not only itself but entire Europe against the flood of illegal migrants. It is not an exaggeration to say that the security of European citizens was financed by Hungarian taxpayers. The protection of European borders cost us 270 billion forints in total. In the past two years Hungary has taken on this unforeseeable and significant burden almost entirely alone.

According to the Hungarian position, it is high time for European solidarity to prevail in practice in the field of border protection as well. We are convinced that, similarly to the cases of Greece and Italy, the European Union should take part in bearing the extraordinary expenses that incurred in Hungary but served the common interest of the European Union. We would consider it reasonable to split the costs that occurred in Hungary, adding up to 270 billion forints (EUR 883.2 million) between the European Union and Hungary into two equal parts.

We agree that solidarity is an important principle of the European community. When Hungary had to protect the common external borders, we started with immediate action and not a request for help. I hope that, in the spirit of European solidarity, we can rightly expect that the European Commission, acting on behalf of Member States, will reimburse half of our extraordinary border protection expenses in the foreseeable future.

Yours sincerely,



ORBÁN Viktor

