

**THE EXTRAORDINARY EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 8 NOVEMBER
SHOULD NOT MEET IN BUDAPEST**

The European Commission announced on 3 October its decision to bring Viktor Orban and his government before the European Court of Justice for violating European values and principle with the 'national sovereignty' law that came into force in February 2023.

This is yet another action against the Hungarian Government already condemned by the European Court of Justice in June 2024 for an 'extremely serious' violation of European law in migration policy, sanctioned by the European Parliament with a request to initiate the disenfranchisement procedure under Art. 7 TEU and in a permanent state of violation since June 2010 of the principles of the rule of law by being a self-proclaimed system of 'illiberal democracy'.

For these reasons the European Parliament had asked in February 2024 the President of the European Council Charles Michel to consider the possibility, moreover allowed by the Treaties, to exclude the Hungarian Government from the six-month rotating presidency of the Council of the Union from 1 July to 31 December 2024; a request, moreover, repeated in May 2024 by the European Movement to no avail.

With the start of the Hungarian Presidency, the European Commission cancelled the traditional meeting between the College of Commissioners and Viktor Orban's Government; the Hungarian Prime Minister did not present the priorities of his Presidency before the European Parliament; many Ministers deserted informal Council meetings and the informal Ecofin Council in September; Josep Borrell - in an unprecedented decision - cancelled the informal meeting of EU foreign Ministers in Budapest in Gymnich format, convening it in Brussels instead.

In this situation, the European Movement considers that the extraordinary European Council convened in Budapest on 8 November by Charles Michel as a follow-up to the European Political Community Summit on 7 November should not take place in the Hungarian capital and should instead be held either in Brussels - as has been the tradition since 2010 with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and the appointment of a full-time President of the European Council - or, possibly and exceptionally, in Berlin on 9 November to celebrate with the Berliners the anniversary of the fall of the Wall and the end of Soviet imperialism.

In this spirit, the European Movement calls on the European Parliament to adopt a resolution exclusively dedicated to supporting the cancellation of the European Council in Budapest on 8 November at the end of the debate on the Council and Commission statements on the European Council of 17 and 18 October in Strasbourg on 8 October.

Rome, 7 October 2024