Kingdom of the Netherlands

His Excellency Mr Michael McGrath
Commissioner for Democracy, Justice,
the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection
Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers
European Commission
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Date 15 July 2025
Re Infringement of fundamental rights of LGBTQI+ persons in Hungary

Your Excellency, Dear Commissioner,

With this letter I wish to share with you the Netherlands' continuing concerns regarding the legislative and constitutional amendments infringing the fundamental rights of LGBTQI+ persons adopted by the Hungarian Parliament on 18 March and 14 April 2025 following other anti-LGBTQI+ legislation already introduced in previous years.

Following a recent debate, the Dutch parliament adopted a motion calling for the Commission to request interim measures regarding the ban on Pride events in Hungary.

As Hungary has still not revised its legislation, organisers and participants of Pride events in Hungary face the ongoing threat of investigation and penalties. Moreover, the legislation allows facial recognition technology to be used. This is manifestly at odds with the common values on which the Union is founded. We therefore call on the Commission to use all tools at its disposal and take swift action to ensure that Hungary complies with its obligations under EU law, so that all future Pride events in Hungary can take place lawfully and without risk of penalties for organisers or participants.

More specifically, we wish to draw your attention to the possibility of requesting the Court of Justice of the European Union to order interim measures to put an immediate end to the current situation. The 2025 amendments are closely connected to the anti-LGBTQI+ legislation that is the subject of pending case C-769/22. The expectation is that it could be several months before the Court gives its judgment in that case. In the meantime, the LGBTQI+ community in Hungary remains under increasing pressure and it is uncertain whether other events, such as the Pécs Pride on 4 October 2025, can go ahead. Insofar as the current procedure would not allow for interim measures to be ordered by the Court, we urge the Commission to take other forms of action, such as starting new infringement proceedings and requesting an expedited procedure and/or requesting interim measures in this new procedure.

Date

15 July 2025

We remain committed to ensuring that our common values and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all citizens are respected and protected.

Yours sincerely,

Bescherming persoonlijke levenssfeer

Pieter Jan Kleiweg de Zwaan
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the European Union

Cc:
Ms Fiona Knab-Lunny, Head of Cabinet Commissioner McGrath
Ms Charmaine Hili, Member of Cabinet President Von der Leyen