



Hungary: Constitutional amendment to protect national values and sovereignty

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The Hungarian National Assembly passed the 15th constitutional amendment to the Basic Law on Monday and adopted a number of new provisions with a strong majority of 140 votes in favor and 21 against.

The amendments to the Basic Law include several important points: the clarification that a person is either male or female; the prohibition of the production, use, distribution and advertising of drugs; the possibility of suspending the citizenship of dual nationals who pose a threat to public order or Hungarian national security; and the confirmation of the right to pay in cash. The amendments also represent an attempt by Hungary to protect itself more strongly against the power claims of EU headquarters.

The amendment also strengthens the protection of children by stipulating that their right to physical, mental and moral development takes precedence over other fundamental rights, with the exception of the right to life.

The proposal was introduced in March by the governing parties Fidesz and KDNP. Supporters of the amendment emphasized the need to strengthen national values, preserve the institution of the family and maintain Hungarian sovereignty.

According to the amendment, the Hungarian legal system recognizes biological sex as a natural fact and defines it as male or female at birth. The law emphasizes the role of the state in protecting this order and supporting the development of society on the basis of these principles.

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán welcomed the adoption of the amendment, saying: “The amendment to Hungary's constitution is now law. We protect the development of children, affirm that a person is born either male or female, and oppose drugs and foreign interference. Common sense counts in Hungary.”

The amendment also deals with emergency powers and stipulates that the government may only suspend certain laws for a fixed period of time during a state of emergency with the approval of two-thirds of the National Assembly - known as a “super-majority”. This provision will come into force in January 2026, along with changes to the rules governing the tenure of public prosecutors, who will now be allowed to remain in office until the age of 70.

During the parliamentary session, members of the Momentum party protested in the chamber by displaying banners and using whistles to disrupt the proceedings. After the vote, Momentum activists organized a demonstration and tried to march to Sándor Palace to urge President Sulyok not to sign the amendment.

Most of the new provisions will come into force the day after publication, while specific measures related to emergency powers and the public prosecutor's office will be implemented early next year.

The State Secretary for International Communications, Zoltán Kovács, commented: “These amendments are necessary to preserve national sovereignty, protect vulnerable communities and ensure legal stability in the face of increasing foreign influence and ideological pressure. This amendment is a reaffirmation that Hungary belongs to Hungarians - legally, culturally and constitutionally.”