

SLI GROUP

TO:

FROM: Hon. Connie Mack

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SUBJECT: PM Orbán support for Trump Administration

On July 20th, 2016, Prime Minister Orbán became the first and only European Head of State to publicly endorse Donald Trump for President of the United States. In his speech, PM Orbán remarked that he was swayed by the security proposals outlined in President Trump's acceptance speech as the Republican Party's nominee. Other highlights of Orbán's initial speech include:

- "He (Donald Trump) would be the better one (candidate) for Europe and for Hungary."
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- "I listened to the candidate and I must tell you he made three proposals to combat terrorism. And as a European I could have hardly articulated better what Europe needs." [Read More](#)

The map below clearly demonstrates Hungary's support for the Trump Administration:

Cold Welcome for Trump
Preferred U.S. presidential candidates among EU28
■ Supports Hillary Clinton ■ Supports Donald Trump ■ Non-EU states



Orbán's support of President Trump continues. In fact, earlier this month, the Prime Minister defended President Trump's refugee policy at a gathering of EU Heads of State and Government

stating:

- Feb 3, 2017 – Statement before the EU summit in Valetta, Malta:
 - **“I am surprised to observe the neurotic reactions criticizing the decision of the United States”** [to temporarily ban citizens of certain countries from entering the US].
 - **“The United States is not a member of the European Union; it is an independent state and as such has the right to determine its own border, foreign and migration policies.”**
 - **“(…) this is something the United States has a right to do (…)** It makes absolutely no difference what we think about this, it isn’t Europe’s business. (…) **We should be concentrating on ourselves and should be dealing with our own problems instead of criticizing the United States.”**

Orbán’s Hungary is committed to strengthening U.S.-Hungarian relations and cooperation. They are “interested in a strong Hungary in a strong Europe” and are extremely optimistic about the prospect of working with the Trump administration and a GOP-controlled congress to accomplish this.

Additional PM Viktor Orbán’s comments supporting the Trump Administration

- Jan 23, 2017 – Speech at the Lámfalussy Conference:
 - **“(…) I think that last week we heard a key sentence, and we must take this key phrase seriously. If we understand this correctly, we shall understand everything that follows. This key phrase is not the one quoted by most people – “America First” – but this: “it is the right of all nations to put their own interests first”. This represents a great change. These words could not have come from an earlier US president, but now they have come from this president. This means that the era of multilateralism is at an end, and the era of bilateral relations is upon us. For us this is good news, because it is an unnatural state of affairs when, influenced by external pressure, one dare not state that one’s own country comes first when governing, making decisions, or considering what the central bank should do. This unnatural state of affairs is at an end, and we have been given permission, if you like, from the world’s highest secular position, that we, too, can place our own interests first. This is a great thing, it is a great freedom and a great gift.”**
- Dec 15, 2016 – Hungarian news and opinion site.888.hu interview:
 - **“Therein lies the kinship with the US President-elect. You can sense this same self-made man mentality in him [as in Fidesz].”**
 - **“I’ve spoken to a true American. (…) **We found a common voice. This is unusual in politics, especially with the leader of a great power.”****
- Nov 9, 2016 – Facebook post following the US elections:
 - **“Congratulations. What great news. Democracy is still alive.”**
- Jul 23, 2016 – Speech at the 27th Bálványos Summer Open University and Camp:
 - **“I am not Donald Trump’s campaign manager. I had never thought that it would seem to me that, of the candidates on offer, he would, after all, be the best**

option for Europe and Hungary. I would never have thought so. But I have listened to that candidate, and I have to say that he made three proposals for curbing terrorism. And, as a European, I myself could hardly have given a better analysis of what Europe needs.”

Q&A following the speech:

- “First of all, let me say in the context of this whole migration affair that now that I listened to the speeches of the American presidential candidates, one of the American presidential candidates, it became clear to us, or to me, that the outcome of the American presidential election is not at all indifferent for us. The Republican presidential candidate said yesterday that immigration is a bad thing and it must be stopped; no one can enter America who does not respect the American values, who does not subject himself to the laws, and does not accept the customs they have. Those who fail to do these things should not come, and that is that – this is clear talking; we are used to finer speech in high politics, but that does not change the essence of it all. The situation is that one of the main supporters of the pressure of immigration that is weighing heavy upon Hungary is the United States. Partly through its official policy; President Obama spoke about this openly at the NATO summit. Everyone who is opposed to immigration was classified as a bad guy – there I sat lying low at the end of the table...
- It is not indifferent who will be the prospective President of the United States, what he or she thinks about immigration, and this will determine our lives. I do not criticize the Americans; I just want to make clear that what is right in their view destroys us, and I therefore cannot endorse it.
- So first of all, I would like to say that the presidential election in the United States of America is relevant to Europe’s immigration policy and the future of the situation of Hungary.”

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Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.*

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