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STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION



*The German Marshall Fund of the United States and the Hungarian Europe Society are pleased to invite you to:*

# Turning the Tide of Populist Authoritarianism

Mobilizing a pro-European agenda in Central Europe

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**Tuesday, October 16, 2018 | 16:30 - 18:00**

*Light refreshments will be served*

## Discussants

Zsuzsanna Szelényi, Liberal Politician and former Member of the Hungarian Parliament;  
Visiting Fellow, Institute for Human Sciences, Europe's Futures Program

István Hegedűs, former Member of the Hungarian Parliament; Chairman, Hungarian  
Europe Society

Benedek Jávor, Hungarian MEP, the Greens/European Free Alliance

## Moderator

Rosa Balfour, Senior fellow, Europe Program, The German Marshall Fund of the United  
States

## Location

The German Marshall Fund of the United States,

Residence Palace, Rue de la Loi 155, Brussels

RSVP

If you have any questions, please contact Nienke Schrover at [nschrover@gmfus.org](mailto:nschrover@gmfus.org).

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Populist authoritarianism is consolidating in Central Europe and European Union measures to protect the rule of law are yet to be of consequence. These developments make it all the more important to revitalize political mobilization in the run-up to the European Parliament elections in May 2019. Despite the present nationalist trend, Central Europeans are pro-European. This can provide the starting point for a positive political agenda. The Hungarian experience in particular explains how illiberal democracy came about and can provide lessons in how to counter it. Between the Sargentini Report adopted by the European Parliament in September and the next European Parliament elections, what next developments can be envisaged in Hungary? What are the implications for European party politics? And why is Hungary important for the rest of Europe?

This discussion will be held under the Chatham House Rule and will bring together officials and experts in the field to discuss current developments in Central Europe and their importance to Europe. In presenting the discussion paper "A Pro-European Vision for the European Union – the Perspective of the Visegrad countries," Zsuzsanna Szélényi, István Hegedűs, and Benedek Jávor will discuss what initiatives and ideas can drive political mobilization to make a difference in Central Europe and beyond.

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