

Budapest Forum 2026

New Dynamics of Democratic Change

October 1, 2026 - CEU, Nádor street 15., H - 1051 Budapest

9:00–9:15 Welcome Speech

Péter Krekó, Director, Political Capital Institute

9:15–9:30 Keynote Speech

Carsten Q. Schneider, Interim President and Rector, Central European University

9:30–9:45 Keynote Speech

Gergely Karácsony, Mayor of Budapest

9:45-10.00. Award Ceremony and Keynote Speech

Presentation of the Budapest Freedom Award 2026, followed by a keynote address

10:00–11:15 Resilient Democracies in a Fractured World (in cooperation with Heinrich Böll Stiftung)

Keynote speech: **Zoltán Tarr**, Minister of Social Relations and Culture of Hungary

Speakers:

Jan Philipp Albrecht, Co-president, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

Péter Balázs, Former Commissioner and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary

Stefánia Kapronczay, Human Rights & Narrative Strategist

Randi Weingarten, President, American Federation of Teachers

Moderator: **Adéla Jurečková**, Director, Prague Office of Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

11:15–12:15 Cities under pressure: Municipal resilience in an age of overlapping crises

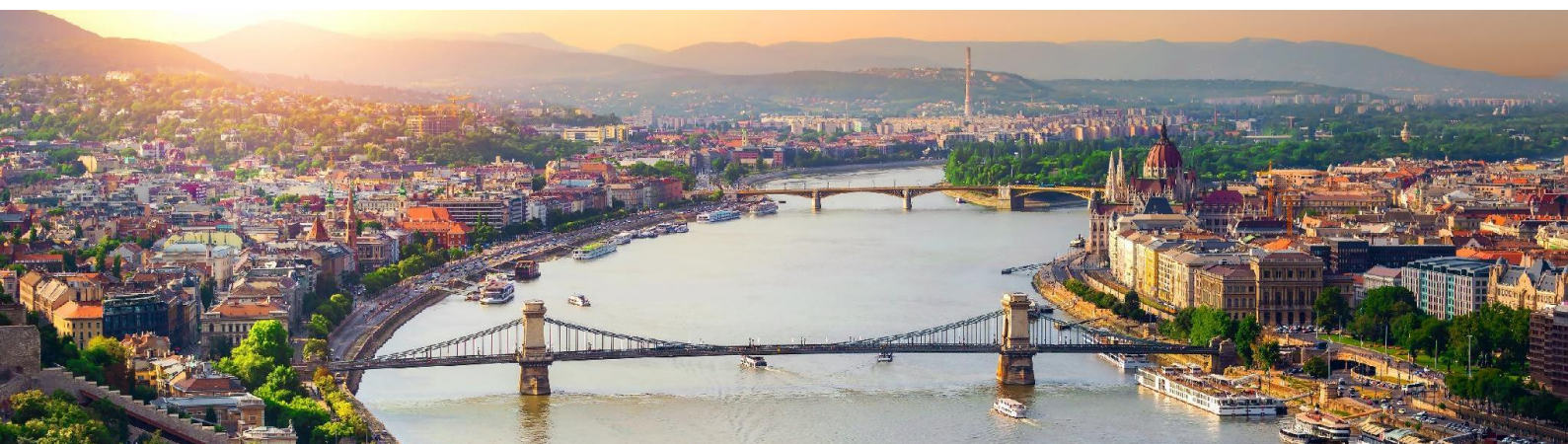
Speakers:

Thomas O. Melia, Senior Fellow, Georgetown University, Former Assistant Secretary of State

Kata Tüttő, President of the Committee of the Regions

Moderator: **Edit Inotai**, Senior Fellow, Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy

Lunch break 12:15-13:00



13:00–14:00 Between Washington, Brussels, and Taipei: Security in a Changing World (In cooperation with the Taipei Representative Office, Budapest)

Speakers:

Tamás Csiki Varga, Senior Research Fellow at the John Lukacs Institute for Politics and Strategy, Public Service University

Roland Freudenstein, Freedom Hub, Senior non-resident Fellow of the Center for European Policy Analysis

Ivana Karásková, China Team Lead, Association for International Affairs

I-Chung Lai, President, Prospect Foundation, Taiwan

Moderator: **Bernadett Szél**, Research Affiliate, CEU Democracy Institute; MOFA Taiwan Fellow, 2025

14:00-15:00: Europe's 2027 Electoral Turning Point: Populism, Fragmentation and the Future of Mainstream Politics (In cooperation with Friedrich Naumann Foundation)

Speakers:

Jean-Yves Camus, Director, Observatoire des radicalités politiques, Fondation Jean Jaurès, Paris

Dániel Hegedűs, Deputy Director, Institut für Europäische Politik

Leszek Jażdżewski, Editor-in-Chief, Libertel; Vice-President, Fundacja Libertel

Gerald Knaus, Founding Chairman, European Stability Initiative

Nathalie Tocci, Professor, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies

Moderator: **Lars-André Richter**, Director, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Prague

15:00–16:00 After illiberalism: rebuilding democratic institutions and reintegrating Hungary into Europe

Speakers:

Zoltán Fleck, Professor, Eötvös Loránd University

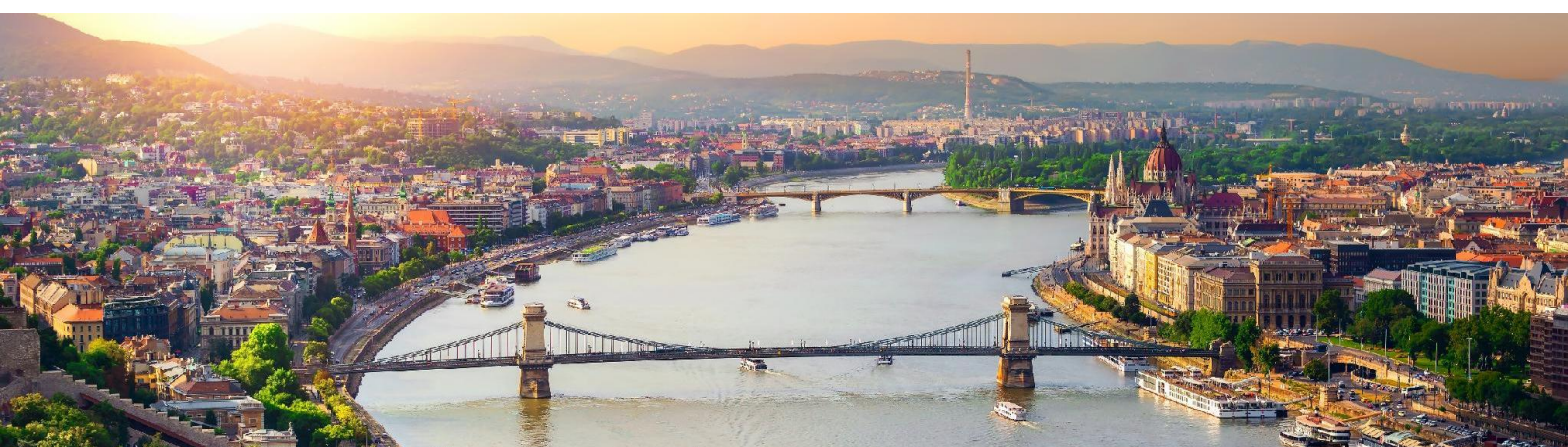
Sergey Lagodinsky, Member of the European Parliament

Csaba Mányai, Executive Director, Hungarian Blueprint Institute,

Kim Lane Scheppele, Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Sociology and International Affairs, Princeton University

Renáta Uitz, Senior Research Fellow, Central European University Democracy Institute

Moderator: **Péter Krekó**, Director, Political Capital Institute; Professor, ELTE University



16:00-16:30 Coffee break and opening of the exhibition” Solidarity and Strategy: Taiwan and the Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence of 1956”

Speakers:

Elliott Wang, Representative, Taipei Representative Office in Hungary

László Eörsi, historian

Bernadett Szél and **Gábor Rácz**, researchers and curators of the exhibition

16:30-17:30: Is there a common Central European response to today's crises?

Keynote speech: **Jakub Stefaniak**, Secretary of State, Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland

Speakers:

Botond Feledy, Director, Hungarian Institute of Foreign Affairs

Dominika Hajdu, Director for Policy and Programming, GLOBSEC

Zoltán Varga, CEO, Central Media Group

Jakub Wisniewski, Director, Wacław Felczak Institute for Polish-Hungarian Friendship

Moderator: **Zsuzsanna Szelényi**, Program Director, Central European University Democracy Institute

17:30–18:00 Lessons from the past: what does the revolution of 1956 teach us about the crises we are facing today? (in Hungarian)

Lecture by **Krisztián Ungváry**, Research Professor, University of Miskolc

18:00–19:00 Narratives of the past, struggles of the present: democracy and social cohesion in Hungary (in Hungarian)

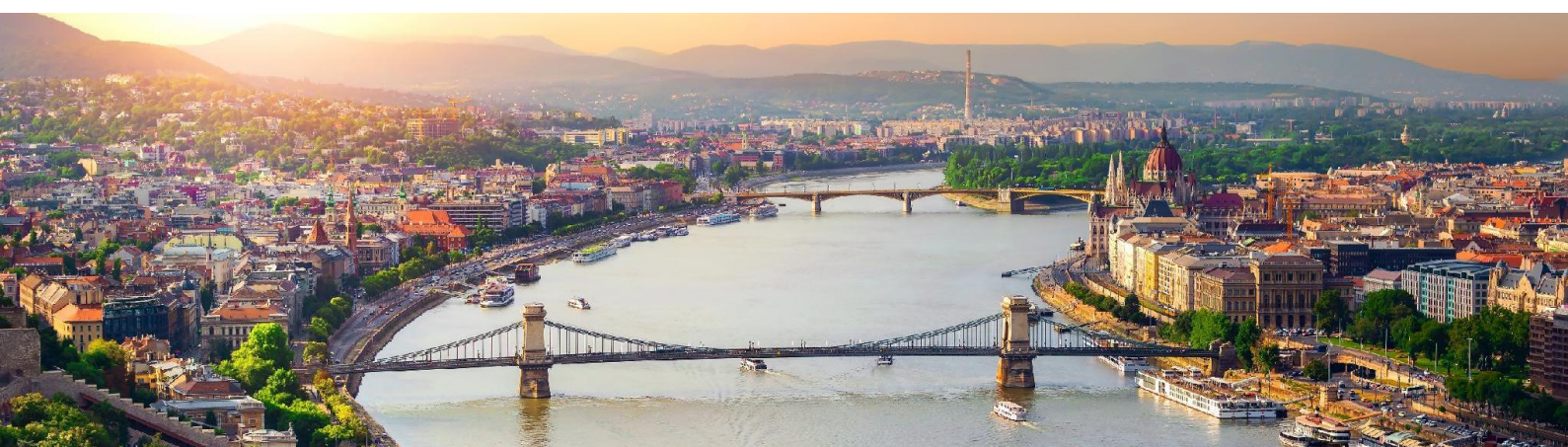
Speakers:

Péter Csunderlik, Research Fellow, Eötvös Loránd University

István Hegedűs, Chairman, Hungarian Europe Society

Andrea Szabó, Research Professor, Eötvös Loránd University Centre for Social Sciences

Moderator: **Benedek Jávor**, Head of Representation of Budapest in Brussels





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