

**Speech of Mr. László Kövér, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly  
in Session II of the Conference of Speakers of the European Union  
Parliaments:**

***Closer to voters: regionalism in Europe, and safeguarding Europe's  
cultural identity***

*(Hungarian Parliament – 12 May 2025)*

*„Mir wëlle bleiwe wat mir sinn!”*

*„We want to remain who we are!”* Let me begin my speech with the state motto of Luxembourg.

Dear Conference Participants,

I believe that, despite all the propaganda to the contrary, Europe's cultural identity today still has two defining, inescapable components: Christian values that go back to more than two thousand years of history and the sentiment of nationhood, which has taken shape over the past three hundred years.

All this inevitably affects the mindset and behaviour of even atheist or nation-denying European people, whose identity is based on a denial of European Christian and national identity, not to mention the fact that, from our celebrations to our everyday customs, there is almost nothing that does not have its origins and roots in our Christian or national traditions.

There has never been and there is still no such thing as a European nation, and therefore there is no independent European identity either. I, dear Colleagues, feel European not only due to my place of birth, but also because I have a Christian and national identity, i.e. I am part of the Reformed Church, and I am also Hungarian.

We all know that Christian and national identity make up the soul of Europe. It creates a historical, sociological, cultural-anthropological and socio-psychological reality that we all sense. However, we also sense that there are some who want to destroy this reality at any cost, by any means, to steal the soul of Europe.

The question is: who are they and why are they doing this? In my view, they are non-public interest groups - typically non-European, but with European backers - who, after this soul-stealing, aim to plunder the states of Europe; they want to gain the power and the right to control the financial, economic, natural and human resources of all European nations for their own benefit.

Anyone who is to be subjugated in terms of power must first have their mind invaded, and only then their territory - this is the rule of 21<sup>st</sup> century hybrid warfare against European nations. In all European countries, without exception, there is a conscious and systematic intellectual, spiritual and political warfare against traditional families, Christian churches and national identity, which is gradually taking the form of identity terrorism.

Unfortunately, the siege on the identity of European nations has shifted into a higher gear just in the past few days: the legal assault has already begun. The secret service of

the EU's most populous Member State stated in a paper just a few days ago, that the concept of nationhood rooted in ethnic identity is incompatible with democracy. They were not saying that exclusion from the nation on ethnic grounds goes against democracy, but that the very notion of nationhood rooted in ethnic identity is dangerous to democracy.

However, honourable Colleagues, the problem is that there is no nation without an ethnic aspect, because European nations, as historical formations, are nothing but the product of the gradual emergence of the self-awareness of ethnic communities defined by a common language, a common history and a common culture.

It has been this process of European nation-building that has determined the process of state-building in Europe over the past three hundred years. Without ethnic foundations, there are no European nations, and without European nations, there is no justification for European nation states to exist. In this case, however, the Westphalian state structure of Europe, which has evolved since 1648, can be abolished, together with the European nation states and the currently known structure of the European Union, which is rooted in co-operation among these nations. The power formula of the anti-nation European Union, which is based on the co-operation of nation states is as simple as that!

The above-mentioned secret service document should not be overestimated, but at the same time it must not be underestimated either, because unless the courts of the EU Member State in question review and reject the basic legal premise of the document, a path will be opened towards the criminalisation of national identity in the European Union.

Honourable Conference Participants,

We believe that it is not the ethnic aspect that should be removed from the European national identity - especially not by means of power and legal instruments. Instead, answers must be found to the questions of multi-ethnic living within European nations by means of constitutional law, civil law and international law, in a morally and politically appropriate way, acceptable to all European states and nations.

It is an obvious historical fact that, as a result of the evolution of European nations and states, the political borders of states and the ethnic borders of nations are not identical, meaning that on the territory of a given European state multiple ethnic groups live together, sometimes in numerical majority while at other times in minority; either as an indigenous ethnic community that has been living there for several centuries or millennia; or as an immigrant ethnic community that arrived there amidst the storms of history.

We must find a 21<sup>st</sup>-century legal and political solution to this ethnic-based European national coexistence, learning from the lessons of 20<sup>th</sup>-century European history, to make sure that individual nations or ethnic communities living together in such states

cannot be turned against each other or be made the victims of any kind of imperial manipulation.

Dear Colleagues, we don't need to start from scratch in these endeavours; we simply need to take a step forward!

Article 4 of the Treaty on the European Union says: *'The Union shall respect the equality of Member States before the Treaties as well as their national identities, inherent in their fundamental structures, political and constitutional, inclusive of regional and local self-government.'*

This means that this core document of the European Union uses the expression 'national identity', recognising and guaranteeing it as a right in the relationship between the European Union and its Member States. However, neither the Treaty nor other EU legal sources have so far defined a politically and legally comprehensible, realistic and easy-to-understand concept of national identity.

If the European Union guarantees the national identity of Member States, as it does in the Treaty, the question arises: Who is the real subject and bearer of national identity?

Our answer to this question is in line with the logic of jurisprudence, common sense and historical experience: the subjects of national identity are the ethnic communities that have lived on the territory of a given state for a certain period of time, whether they are in a numerical majority or a numerical minority.

Our answer, honourable Conference Participants, is that it is people, citizens of the state who have a national identity, and this identity, as a state of mind and set of values, is derived from their mother tongue, culture and homeland.

Everyone should have the right to freely inherit the mother tongue, culture and the homeliness of their birth country, and to freely pass them on to their descendants - this is what we propose as the content of the right to national identity. And the state is there to protect the identity of ethnic communities, whether in numerical majority or minority.

Honourable Colleagues, the Hungarian proposal is to make the right to national identity part of the latest generation of European and universal human rights through European co-operation - not only for the benefit of indigenous minority communities, representing approximately one tenth of the citizens of EU Member States, but also for the benefit of the majority.

This could be a useful tool not only in Europe, but also worldwide, for the protection of human dignity in general, promoting peace, security and stability everywhere, and, last but not least, for the protection of European cultural identity - i.e. for the protection of the soul of Europe.

Thank you for your attention!