

Statement of the National Judicial Council (OBT) on the meeting of two OBT members with the Ambassador of the United States

The National Judicial Council, in reaction to some disturbing and blatantly propagandistic media news that appeared recently, deems necessary to provide the following information.

The Hungarian judiciary, as it is customary in democracies, has been in contact with the ambassadors to Hungary for decades. For instance, on 18th december 2018 current Constitutional Court Judge and former President of the National Office for the Judiciary (OBH) Ms Tünde Handó, had a meeting with the U.S. Ambassador to Hungary and they agreed that "it would be useful for both countries if Hungarian and American jurists had the opportunity to exchange their experience and good practices through trainings in the future".

Naturally, OBT, which a self-governing body established by the Fundamental Law, has contacts with the diplomatic corps of the allied States. OBT had organized a conference together with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and welcomed the Ambassador of the Netherlands in November 2021.

OBT has excellent relations with the Embassy of the USA. Some OBT members, including Mr Tamás Matusik and Mr Csaba Vasvári, were present at the Independence Day Celebration organized by the U.S Embassy in 2019. The President of OBH and the President of MABIE (the Hungarian Association of Judges) also participated at the event. Furthermore, some members of OBT, among them Mr Csaba Vasvári, met with former U.S. Ambassador Mr David Cornstein in similar circumstances to the current one, like other judicial actors did.

Due to some distorted news issued lately, it is important to stress that an ambassador is not a politician but is the head of the diplomatic corps, representing their own country in another State. It would be a serious error to mistake a politician for a political appointee. Judges themselves often get in touch with the latter ones as the Presidents of the Hungarian Supreme Court (Kúria) and OBH are also political appointees.