

## Korkedvezményes Nyugdíjasok Országos Érdekvédelmi Egyesülete

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Mr. Lars ADAKTUSSON!

Member of the European Parliament

European Parliament Rue Wiertz 60 1047 Bruxelles Belgique

October 22, 2014

## **Dear Mr. Lars ADAKTUSSON!**

On behalf of the National Association of Early Retirees (AER) of Hungary I would like to kindly inform you that our petition is before the relevant committee of the EP. Our petition is about the fact that the current Hungarian government, abusing its 2/3rd majority in parliament, took away the legal opportunity from everybody 57 years old or younger to enter early retirement. Please note that the affected individuals had already been retirees for a long time. Early retirement status was not a temporary but a permanent one equal to the old-age retirement status. According to the new law, instead of guaranteed pensions former early retirees receive a monthly subsidy that can be reduced or taken away anytime if the government wishes so.

In Hungary, laws made it possible for time law enforcement employees and those who had worked in jobs that endangered health could enter early retirement after 25 years of service. Once agai, I'd like to emphasize that this was not a temporary retirement status but equal to the old-age retirement status!

We believe that institutions like the European Union and the EP in particular which protect and enforce principles of our European community in member states can help our members regain their pensions that they had obtained originally legally and legitimately. As citizens of the EU we think it is our fair request and expectation.

I'd like to kindly inform you that we have been tilting at windmills with the Hungarian government for almost three years and we have tried to get the support of various European institutions for our fight but we have failed so far. We think that regarding our case the

European Commission translated the "acquis communautaire" in a rather strange way that is why we would like to ask for your support.

We would like to get an answer to the following questions:

- 1. Why is it part of "social security reform" to deprive those of their pensions in 2011 who, according to the law, retired earlier in 2004? These people are not pensioners anymore and all of their allowances are taken away.
- 2. Why didn't the European Commission consider this measure of the Hungarian government a retroactive act? Retroactive lawmaking is unacceptable by international law against which the EU is fighting, isn't it?
- 3. Why isn't an already legitimately obtained pensioner status a vested right? Doesn't the EU protect vested rights?

The Hungarian government does not want to negotiate with us. They have not accepted any of our invitations for discussion. We are fighting for our rights: we want to get back what was once already ours.

In sum I believe that it was not a coincidence that the relevant EP committee left our petition hanging.

I thank you for your consideration and we trust your impartial judgement and look forward to your kind support. I would be more than happy to provide you with relevant documents and information, and, upon request, I would be available for a personal discussion regarding the matter.

## Sincerely yours,

