

Application letter for the presidency of the Hungarian Integrity Authority by Ferenc Biro

(translation from Hungarian, originally attached to the professional CV, dated 29. October 2022)

Dear Commission,

My resume makes it clear that throughout my career, I have been fighting corruption and fraud, and for ethics and integrity. I had never thought of working in public administration or entering politics, but in this historical situation I hear a calling for me.

I have worked in the private sector for 25 years in Hungarian and international environments. Most of this time I have been active in the field that the Integrity Authority is set up to address. This comprehensive knowledge and practical experience makes it possible for me to carry out the task despite its difficult nature. This experience plus an extensive cooperation with delegates from the authorities allow us to create real value immediately, instead of making initial mistakes, saving time and money by preventing problems.

My professional background means that I am familiar with international regulations, both the expectations of regulators and mechanisms in the EU and the US , as well as the Hungarian economic environment. 'Speaking two languages' allows for an effective dialogue. One of the basic principles of this dialogue should be that Hungary can demonstrate an objective control mechanism that can comfortably demonstrate the proper use of funds for their intended purpose and thus facilitate their unhindered and early arrival.

Given the country's current economic situation, it is imperative that resources that are currently being squandered or not being used for their intended purpose are captured and used to build the country.

The confinement of corruption and fraud can be achieved by the sanctioning of detected cases,

preventive programmes and education, i.e. education for ethical economic behaviour. The Authority's task, as defined by law, can be derived from this. What is also essential is regular communication of results and rebuilding trust in the system. To this end, a suitable set of key indicators (KPIs) must be established, regularly monitored and measured, and then communicated.

One of the prerequisites for tackling the crisis we face and for long-term success is to believe that the peaceful and economically uplifting future can only be built on fairness and mutual trust.

A by-product of curbing corruption and abuse is motivating talented young people (i.e. the future of the country) to participate in the domestic economy, as well as retaining and rewarding, both morally and financially, professionals with significant professional experience who can teach and lead by example the next generation.

On a personal note, I think it is important to note that my life is dedicated to my work.

I have lived and continue to live my life properly, free from scandal. No skeletons in the closet.

I am aware that our current, calm, peaceful family life is in great upheaval because of the publicity and criticism, real or perceived, that this task is likely to bring. All for a substantially lower salary than I am currently earning.

However, having lived my whole professional life by these principles and worked for the betterment of the country, driven by my conscience I have decided to apply for this job.

Best regards,

Ferenc Biró