



## **Memorandum of Understanding of the “EU-Chambers”**

**Permanent Commission  
of the bilateral business chambers and other business organisations  
of EU member states operating in Hungary**

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### **1. History**

On April 28, 1994 the British Chamber of Commerce in Hungary, the German-Hungarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the French-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Italian-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce agreed in Budapest to intensify their cooperation with regard to the European treaties and within the framework of the European Union.

Therefore, it was agreed to establish the Permanent Commission of the National and Bilateral Chambers of the EU-countries in Hungary (hereinafter "the Permanent Commission").

The Austrian Trade Commission Budapest and the Swedish Chamber of Commerce joined the Permanent Commission on June 4, 1998.

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### **2. Members**

- (a) Any foreign or bilateral business / economic organization of companies of EU member states in Hungary that has been established or may be established in the future may join the Permanent Commission by signing this Memorandum (Members).
- (b) Any other type of organization or diplomatic delegations with business interest may become an Associate Member by signing this Memorandum. The Council may make grant the status of Member by a qualified majority of 75% of present Members
- (c) The signatories (Members and Associate Members) do not intend to establish institutions which would constitute legal entities.

### **3. Mission**

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(a) The Mission of the Permanent Commission is to support the improvement of the legal, institutional and business framework for successful operation of companies of other EU member states in Hungary.

To this end, the Permanent Commission shall

- represent, promote and protect common economic and business interests of the signature parties in Hungary;
- exchange experience and information of common interest. Signatories will gather information on Hungarian and European legislation and administrative issues, legal regulations, instruments and measures which are of significance to the promotion of investment and trade between other EU-countries and Hungary and make this available to the signatories;
- organise joint events which will promote trade between Hungary and other EU countries;
- identify and develop positions on diverse issues with common interest to present a single voice towards the Hungarian government, ministries and authorities.

(b) The Permanent Commission does not intend to deal with issues of a national or bilateral character, which lie exclusively within the competence of individual commercial and industrial Chambers or similar business associations.

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### **4. Bodies**

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The bodies of the Permanent Commission are:

- the Council;
- the Chairperson.

#### ***4.1. Council***

(a) Decisions of the Permanent Commission shall be made by the Council.

The Council shall consist of the Chairpersons or executive directors of the signatories or their mandated representatives.

(b) The Council shall meet as required, but minimum twice a year. Meetings shall be called by the Chairperson at least two weeks prior to meetings. The invitation shall include the agenda of the meeting and proposed decisions on individual agenda items. Signatories should confirm their attendance in writing before each meeting.

- (c) Proposed decisions on individual agenda items shall be submitted by the Chairperson upon suggestion of any of the signatories.
- (d) Condition of Quorum is at least 50% + 1 of signatories being present.
- (e) Decisions of the Council shall be made by simple majority, unless otherwise agreed.
- (f) Decisions of the Council shall be minuted. The minutes of the meeting shall be sent to all signatories within 7 working days following the meetings.
- (g) The official working language within the Permanent Commission is English.

#### ***4.2. Chairperson***

- (a) The Council shall be headed by a Chairperson.
- (b) The Chair position of the Council should rotate among Members in alphabetical order according to the list as stated in the Appendix. Members who do not wish to adopt their due position as Chair shall make a statement in this regard by first working day of April of the respective calendar year. In this case, rotation should continue according to the alphabetical order as mentioned above.  
Members may take their due place in the above mentioned order of rotation after a minimum of one year of membership.
- (c) The Chairperson shall be appointed for a period of one year by the Council by the first working day of June. The term may be prolonged by a one year more by decision of the Council by simple majority.
- (d) The Chairperson represents the Permanent Commission and the common interests of the signatories towards public and governmental institutions, the business community, the general public and the media. The Chairperson represents the Permanent Commission in the Investors' Council and other organizations.
- (e) The Chairperson shall be authorized to give public statements on behalf of the Permanent Commission without further consultation only on matters for which a common position has been agreed by decision of the Council.
- (f) The Council shall have two Vice Chairs. One of the Vice Chairs shall be the preceding Chairperson; the other shall be elected by the Council. The Vice Chairs share responsibilities and representation of the Permanent Commission in different forums and in the public.

## **5. Activities**

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(I) The Permanent Commission will focus its activities on the following areas:

### ***5.1. Forming common positions***

- (a) The Permanent Commission will elaborate common positions on subjects of outstanding importance to the majority of their signatories (“key subjects”) and present these positions towards the Hungarian government, ministries and authorities in an appropriate way. The signatories will set up and guide committees to enhance a quick reaction of the Permanent Commission to the various topics of political and economical importance.
- (b) Key subjects shall be identified and agreed annually by decision of the Council upon proposal of the Chairperson. Any signatory may suggest key subjects to the Chairperson.
- (c) The Council may mandate an individual signatory to lead project groups on key subjects (project leader). The project leader shall be authorized to co-ordinate all activities related to the respective subject and submit a proposal on a common position to the Council. Signatories wishing to participate in the elaboration of such key subjects shall assign a contact person to project team.

### ***5.2. Networking***

The signatories will organize joint events which promote trade and investment between Hungary and other EU member states and provide exclusive information or opportunities for close business relations between companies of EU member states.

(II) The Permanent Commission will be supported by the Secretariat, which tasks are the following:

- Suggesting and co-coordinating events and any other joint projects;
- Keeping signatories informed, moving the activities of the organisation forward;
- Collecting position papers from signatories, promoting and proposing papers and positions of common interest towards the various institutions (government institutions, ministries, etc.);

## **6. Funding**

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(a) The Permanent Commission has no independent access to funds. Expenses will be covered and revenues will be shared between the Members. Expenses of ongoing activities and individual projects shall be covered primarily by contributions in kind.

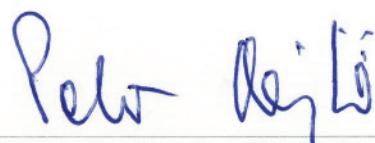
- (b) Administrative costs of the Chair should be covered primarily by the chairing Member. In order to share the financial burden of the Chair, Members have to provide support by a financial contribution for covering the expenses of the Secretariat, as decided by the Council.
- (c) The financial responsibility and commitments for individual projects, including project groups, will be determined in advance by formal agreement between the participants.
- (d) The Council may authorize any signatory to apply for financing from EU, bilateral or international sources of funds and to use these funds for the implementation of the goals of the Permanent Commission.

## 7. Settlement

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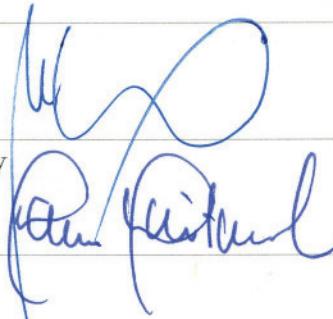
The signatories agree to settle disputed matters amicably.

Budapest, April 25, 2007



Austrian Embassy – Commercial Section

Embassy of Belgium



British Chamber of Commerce in Hungary

Danish Business Forum in Hungary

Finpro

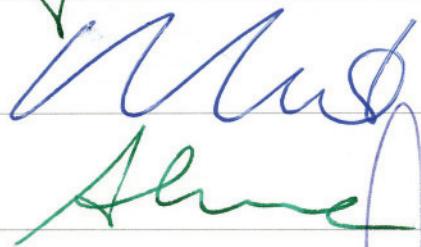
French-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

German-Hungarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce

Greek–Hungarian Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Alma".

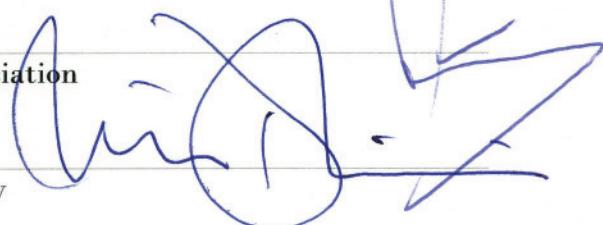
Irish–Hungarian Business Circle

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mug".

Italian Chamber of Commerce for Hungary

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Netherlands–Hungarian Commercial Association

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Swedish Chamber of Commerce in Hungary

## APPENDIX

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List of the bilateral business chambers and other business organisations of EU member states operating in Hungary (in alphabetical order):

- **Austrian** Embassy (Commercial Section)
- **Embassy of Belgium** (Brussels Capital Region, Flemish Region, Walloon Region)
- **British** Chamber of Commerce in Hungary
- **Bulgarian** Embassy (Commercial Section)
- **Cypriot** Embassy (Commercial Section)
- **Czech** Embassy (Commercial Section)
- **Danish** Business Forum in Hungary and Embassy of Denmark (Commercial Department)
- **Estonian** Embassy (Commercial Section)
- **Finpro** – Finnish Chamber of Commerce and Finnish Embassy
- **French**-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- **German**-Hungarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce
- **Greek**-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce
- **Irish**-Hungarian Business Circle
- **Italian** Chamber of Commerce in Hungary
- **Latvian** Embassy (Commercial Section)
- **Lithuanian** Embassy (Commercial Section)
- **Luxemburgish** Embassy (Commercial Section)
- **Maltese** Embassy (Commercial Section)
- **Netherlands**-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Royal **Netherlands** Embassy (Commercial Section)
- **Polish** Embassy (Commercial Section)
- **Portuguese** Embassy (ICEP)
- **Romanian** Embassy (Commercial Section)
- **Slovak** Hungarian Chamber of Commerce
- **Slovenian** Embassy (Commercial Section) and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Zala County (**Slovenian** Department)
- **Spanish** Embassy (Commercial Section)
- **Swedish** Chamber of Commerce in Hungary