



Mr. Viktor Orbán  
Prime Minister of Hungary  
1357 Budapest, Pf. 6

31 March 2023

During the visit to Budapest in November 2022, the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) members learnt about the existence of the V4 News Agency and its content. Upon further exploration, it is clear that this Agency has nothing to do with the Visegrad group. There is no information about the decision at the level of V4 to establish this Agency in 2019.

The content does not cover the activities of the Visegrad Group as a whole but only the agenda of the Hungarian government. As such, the articles spread mainly misinformation or fear through pieces such as “dictatorship from Brussels”. Moreover, the platform offers its publications only in Hungarian and English and does not even cover the official languages of the V4 countries.

According to several independent sources<sup>1</sup>, the Agency is based in Budapest, not London. Its links to KESMA conglomerate, Árpád Habony or Defence Minister Kristóf Szalay-Bobrovniczky are of utmost concern.

Overall, the V4 News Agency is exploiting the good name of the Visegrad Group, and by no means it stands by the values declared in Visegrad Declaration 1991, Kroměříž Declaration 2004, or Bratislava Declaration 2011.

Based on the presented facts and the apparent links to the government, we, undersigned Members of the European Parliament, urge you, Mr Prime-Minister, to immediately advocate for cancelling the V4 News Agency or giving it an appropriate name that will not discredit the V4 Group.

Sincerely,

Michaela Šojdrová  
Luděk Niedermayer  
Stanislav Polčák

Ivan Štefanec  
Miriam Lexmann  
Petr Pollák  
Vladimír Bilčík

Tomasz Frankowski  
Radosław Sikorski  
Jarosław Duda  
Janusz Lewandowski

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<sup>1</sup> <https://english.atlatszo.hu/2022/09/08/international-news-agency-informing-hungarians-about-a-declining-west-from-london-has-actually-never-left-budapest/>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/05/london-based-media-agency-channels-victor-orban-nativist-message-hungary>