

Committee on the Application of Standards

Date: 18 May 2026

If they so wish, Governments appearing on the preliminary list of individual cases have the opportunity to supply on a purely voluntary basis, written information before 18 May 2026.

► Information on the application of ratified Conventions supplied by governments on the preliminary list of individual cases

Hungary (ratification: 1957)

Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)

The Government has provided the following written information as well as copies of the agendas and minutes of the meetings of the National ILO Council held on 18 September 2025, 4 December 2025, and 19 February 2026.

The Government has taken note with regret that, following last year, it once again appears on the long list of Member States in connection with the application of international standards. The following is a brief summary of the measures taken so far in this matter.

At the International Labour Conference in 2025, a discussion on the application of the Convention took place on 9 June 2025 within the framework of the Committee. The Committee then requested a report on the progress of the measures taken to implement the conclusions by 1 September 2025. In its conclusions, the Committee requested the provision of information and the implementation of measures, including those related to the registration of associations.

In addition to data reporting, the relevant department determined that, in order to conduct consultations and take well-founded measures, it was necessary to examine judicial precedents regarding the freedom of expression, as well as the number and nature of investigations conducted by prosecutors concerning the supervisory authority over associations. In view of this, the National Office for the Judiciary and the Office of the Prosecutor General were contacted.

Given the time required to contact the competent authorities and for them to carry out their procedures, the court's summer recess, as well as the processing of the data received, the deadline of September could unfortunately not be met. The ILO Office was notified of the consultation with the social partners in emails sent on 2 October 2025 and 27 November 2025.

During the collection and processing of the data, the following consultations took place with the social partners: on 18 September 2025, at the meeting of the National ILO Council (hereinafter: NILO), the Convention and the obligation to respond to the Committee were discussed under agenda item 3.5.

At the meeting, it was communicated to both employers' and workers' representatives that in order for the response regarding the Committee case to be well-considered, satisfactory and complying with the request set forth in the Committee decision issued on 12 June 2025, it requires the involvement of multiple departments and bodies, as well as more time to fulfil the requests and provide the required information. Once the draft response was prepared, appropriate notification of the parties was ensured.

Given the involvement of labour law regulations, it was noted at the meeting that a detailed discussion of the matter would take place at the Permanent Consultation Forum between the business sector and the Government (hereinafter: VKF). During the consultation, the workers indicated that they would submit a proposal to amend the text of sections 8 and 9 of Act I of 2012 on the Labour Code. Unfortunately, the workers have not yet submitted any specific proposals for amendments to the law.

We further note that, in order to gain insight into judicial practice regarding freedom of expression, we have requested the National Office for the Judiciary to provide data on cases involving workers' right to freedom of expression between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2025 – in accordance with sections 8 and 9 of the Labour Code – on how many proceedings were pending in total, how many decisions concerned the right of trade unions to freedom of expression, as well as what decisions of principle were issued.

After contacting all regional courts of appeal, the National Office for the Judiciary sent the requested judgments on 2 October 2025 in a large, compressed file containing all relevant judgments from four regional courts of appeal. Given the large volume of judgments, processing them took approximately one month as an additional task for the available staff. We would like to note that the courts in Hungary were in recess from 15 July to 20 August 2025.

Moreover, the department also contacted the Office of the Prosecutor General of Hungary in connection with the Committee findings on the prosecutorial oversight authority over trade unions' operations and to facilitate the related disclosure of information. The response from the Office of the Prosecutor General was received on 1 October 2025.

Following the analysis of the data submitted and judicial practice, the Special Committee of the VKF included on the agenda of its meeting on 2 December 2025 a discussion of the conclusions and recommendations addressed to Hungary by the ILO Committee on 12 June 2025 regarding the ILO Convention.

The draft report prepared for the ILO, containing the above-mentioned data and the position formulated based on the consultations, was sent to the social partners on 27 November 2025 as an attachment to the email containing the invitation to the meeting.

As noted, a meeting of the VKF was held on 2 December 2025 to hear the positions of employers and workers and to supplement the report with the positions expressed at the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, it was indicated that on account of the aforementioned circumstances, the consultation originally scheduled for October did not take place due to the considerable time required to process the requests and the information received.

During the meeting, the employers' and workers' observations were heard, and cooperation was reaffirmed to resolve the raised issues. Likewise, the workers' representatives were asked once again to submit their proposed amendments to the Labour Code.

Regarding the presentation of the reply to be sent to the ILO, the parties agreed at the VKF meeting that considering the deadline set by the ILO for 4 December 2025, the reply, supplemented with the points raised during the meeting and translated into English, should be sent directly to the ILO without further consultation, with a request for a subsequent presentation.

At the VKF meeting, it became clear that among the conclusions made by the Committee, the complaint was irrelevant in one case (prosecutorial oversight authority) due to repealed legal provisions; in certain other cases, issues arising during the application of the law differed from – or even went beyond – the problem reported to the Committee. To address the existing and identified issues, a commitment was made to continue cooperation.

At the NILO meeting held on 4 December 2025, the vice-president representing the workers inquired about the developments that had taken place at the VKF held on 2 December 2025 and requested to be informed about Hungary's response to the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee on the Convention.

The agenda items discussed at the VKF were presented at the NILO meeting, and information was provided that the response letter to the ILO, which included the comments of the employers and workers, had been sent on the same day, in accordance with the deadline of 4 December 2025.

At the NILO meeting held on 19 February 2026, the workers' representatives reiterated the issues raised by the CAS, specifying the regulatory provisions and expectations to which they objected. Considering all this, the repeated statement made by the two workers' representative bodies on 9 April 2026 is regrettable, given the previous consultations.

We would like to kindly inform the ILO that, in light of the parliamentary elections held on 12 April 2026, the functioning of Parliament and legislative activity took place under limited conditions during the first quarter of 2026. Therefore, it has not been possible to adopt any amendments to labour laws and other legislation necessary to meet the demands put forward by the trade unions.

This was an objective circumstance, well known to the social partners, therefore we would like to ask for understanding from both the representative bodies and the ILO.

We note that the conclusions issued by the Committee did not include any observations regarding strikes. The reason for this is that proceedings are currently underway before the International Court of Justice in The Hague with the aim of determining whether the right to strike is a fundamental right derived from Convention No. 87. Considering this, the draft response did not include any statements in this regard.

In addition, we would like to inform the ILO that, as a result of the elections held on 12 April 2026, the new Hungarian Government is currently being formed at the time of submitting this reply, with no appointed head of the employment policy department as of now.

However, we promise to bring the issues raised to the attention of the new administration and to immediately request a thorough review. We will also provide the new administration with all the relevant information regarding the details of the cooperation initiated with the social partners.

We will recommend that the workers' proposals for legislative amendments be received as soon as possible so that the work already underway can resume without delay. We hope that in the upcoming parliamentary legislative period, genuine solutions to the known and identified problems can be found through balanced and constructive cooperation with workers and employers.

We would also like to ask for patience, as the policy direction for the review of labour laws is currently unknown due to the government restructuring, therefore we are unable to provide any information regarding the new government's position until the new administration takes office.

In view of the situation described, we ask the members of the Committee to consider the points outlined above and, taking into account the current transitional situation, to allow sufficient time to resolve the issues identified, as well as to refrain from placing Hungary on the shortlist again with regard to the Convention.