

Developing public transport is of public interest

- but expanding aviation without limits is not

14 May 2026

Friends of The Earth Hungary (MTVSZ) welcomed the fact that Dávid Vitézy spoke out in favour of developing public transport and especially railways at his ministerial candidate hearing on Monday, while not considering the expansion of the Budapest Airport as a public finance task. MTVSZ expects the government's new transport policy to prioritise the development of public transport, railways and the reduction of air and noise pollution from transport sector in the interests of human health.

- Hungary's transport policy should be based on developing railways and reducing traffic pollution.
- Costs of any potential expansion of Budapest Airport should be borne by aviation sector, not Hungarian taxpayers.
- Current traffic of airport, - especially night flights - should also be regulated more strictly to protect health and quality of life.

Railway development is a climate, energy and socio-political necessity.

Friends of The Earth Hungary welcomes the fact that, according to Dávid Vitézy, Hungary must shift from the “era of railway destruction” to the era of railway development and that a more balanced transport policy is needed. “We are pleased to hear that the political decision-making has finally recognized that railway development is a climate, energy and socio-political necessity. Hungary, here in the middle of Europe, is embarking on a rethinking of railways with excellent potential. In the country of Széchenyi, Baross and Ganz, it would be a crime not to take advantage of this,” emphasized Miklós Marton, expert of MTVSZ.

MTVSZ also agrees with Dávid Vitézy's earlier statement that if the expansion of Budapest Airport is truly necessary, the costs should be borne by aviation sector, not by Hungarian taxpayers. According to the organization, it is unacceptable that another hundred billion public funds are flowing into the development of airport infrastructure and road connections, while the condition of the railway network and stations has deteriorated in many places.

The polluter should pay!

Environmentalists remind: aviation is the most polluting modes of transport. Passenger traffic at Budapest Airport has tripled in twenty years, and air cargo traffic has increased eightfold. In parallel, the burden of noise and air pollution has also increased significantly, which may affect up to one million residents of Budapest and its agglomeration.

“Flying is not a fundamental right, but the right to healthy environment is a constitutional right. Therefore, clear environmental and health restrictions must be imposed on the operation of Budapest Airport,” said Ákos Éger, executive president of Hungarian Association of Nature Conservators. MTVSZ therefore expects the government to regulate and maximize traffic at Budapest Airport, especially at night. The current system – which allows dozens of night-time aircraft operations – places a disproportionate health burden on the people living around.

According to the organization, the basic principle of transforming the transport system should be the consistent application of the “polluter pays” principle. Future transport policy should be based on the development of rail passenger and freight transport, energy efficiency and ensuring healthier living environment.

Further information: <https://mtvsz.hu/repter>

Downloadable background material: <https://tinyurl.com/kozossegi kozlekedesfejlesztes>