

On 18th of April 2011 the Parliament adopted and on 25th of April the president of Hungary promulgated the new Fundamental Law of Hungary.

More parts of the Fundamental Law express Hungary's commitment to promoting and protecting healthy environment and the interests of future generations.

The part '**National avowal**' (preamble) includes a declaration that 'we commit to promoting and safeguarding our heritage, (...) along with all man-made and natural assets of the Carpathian Basin. We bear responsibility for our descendants; therefore we shall protect the living conditions of future generations by making prudent use of our material, intellectual and natural resources.'

In the part '**Foundation**', which contains the most important constitutional principles and constitutional values, Article P gives expression to State's attitude to environmental protection: 'All natural resources, especially agricultural land, forests and drinking water supplies, biodiversity – in particular native plant and animal species – and cultural assets shall form part of the nation's common heritage, and the State and every person shall be obliged to protect, sustain and preserve them for future generations'.

Environmental protection appears in the Fundamental Law also as a fundamental right of every person to a healthy environment which is recognised and enforced by Hungary. In addition, the part '**Freedom and responsibility**' enumerating the fundamental rights and obligations includes two other provisions relating to environment (Article XXI). The first one highlights the principle pursuant to which a person who causes any damage to the environment shall be obliged to restore it or to bear all costs of restoration as defined by law. The second provision reflects the ban by virtue of which no pollutant waste shall be brought into Hungary for the purpose of dumping.

Concerning the **ombudsmen**, the Fundamental Law maintains the institution of Commissioner for Fundamental Rights and two specialized ombudsmen, one for the protection of human rights of minorities and one for the protection of rights of the future generation. These three persons are elected by the Parliament.

In order to avoid conflicts of competence and to attend fundamental rights protection tasks in more efficient institutional system, the Fundamental Law makes a little change in the system of institution: the two specialized ombudsmen will work not separately from, but as deputies of, the general ombudsman. The detailed rules for the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights and his or her deputies shall be determined by an Act that will be adopted by the Parliament till the end of this year.

The Hungarian Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations issued a press release after the promulgation of the Fundamental Law of Hungary. In the press release (<http://www.jno.hu/hu/?&menu=sajt&doc=sajto-alaptorv-110426>) he named the Fundamental Law a good basis expanding and enforcing the Hungarian environmental protection, which ensures a high level of responsibility for future generations.