



Ms Femke Halsema  
Mayor of Amsterdam

*Budapest, 3 July 2025*

**Dear Mayor Halsema,**

28 June 2025 will always stay in my heart — a day when Budapest truly became the capital of Europe. This was possible thanks to the support of so many great European cities, the representatives of the European Commission and the European Parliament, and hundreds of thousands of brave Hungarian and European citizens.

The strength of our cities lies in our diversity, our openness, and our commitment to standing together to defend democracy, human dignity and inclusion.

Thank you for standing with us. The representation of your city and your support turned Budapest Pride into an unforgettable celebration — a celebration of diversity, a symbol of hope, and a powerful moment for Hungarian citizens to express their longing for freedom, human rights, solidarity, and peaceful coexistence.

I feel deeply honoured and proud. Not only did several hundred thousand people join us in the streets, but the international community — including 14 city delegations, hundreds of MEPs, national and local representatives — sent a clear and resounding message: we choose Europe, we choose freedom.

Please pass on my warmest thanks to your colleagues and communities. Together, we showed that when we stand united, our shared values shine brighter than ever.

We all know it is not organizing Pride that is unlawful — but banning it! Freedom and love cannot be banned.

With gratitude and solidarity,

Yours sincerely,

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