

Patriotism ≠ nationalism, Mr. MacShane!

To the Editor:

Sir,

The problem with Mr. Denis MacShane's political evaluation is that his vocabulary lacks the word "patriotism". For him any positive relation to one's nation evidently implies negative attitudes to other people, other nations and cultures. Mr. MacShane is unable to think with the heads of small and not developed nations for whom foreign capital and culture and global processes deliver not only advantages but raise serious threats as well. He is neither aware of the serious economic problems in these countries, originating not from wasting spending but structural problems of the European Common Market.

Half of the article is dedicated to the alleged far-right danger in Hungary due to a recent evasive election victory of Fidesz, a centre-right party and a national radical party's (called Jobbik) getting into the Parliament. The opinions and statements, attributed to the Fidesz Party and its leader, Victor Orban are simply not true. Otherwise how could Mr. MacShane explain that the Fidesz is affiliated with the centre-right European People's Party (together with the parties headed by Angela Merkel and Nicolas Sarkozy) and that Victor Orban is a vice-president of that Party within the European Parliament?

Budapest, Hungary, 21st April 2010

Sincerely yours,

dr. Károly Kiss
Associate Professor of Economics