

The disorientation is done not directly by Der Spiegel; the lies are spoken out by the persons interviewed.

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Section Panorama

Sir,

in your Nr. 12/18.3.13 page 82, in the article about Ungarn reads as follows:

„Das Verfassungsgericht darf Normen und Gesetze in Zukunft nicht mehr inhaltlich überprüfen, sondern nur noch urteilen, ob sie formal richtig verabschiedet wurden. Damit wurde eine wichtige Kontrollinstanz abgeschafft.“

This is not true.

The Constitutional Court will have the power to control laws in the future the same way as earlier. What has been changed is the following. Until the recent amendment the Court was entitled to control amendments to the Constitution as well. This right was removed. But the Court has never used this warrant during its 23 years practice, stating that it would have been contrary to the constitutional principle of the division of competencies among the power branches. So the Court itself did not agree with that competency. To give a constitution and amend it is the competency of the Parliament and not the Constitutional Court.

I hope you can feel the immense difference between the false statement and reality.

Mr. Hegedűs is not poor laymen, earlier he was a leading politician, first deputy of Fidesz then in the liberal SzDSz. As a result, this is not a mistake from his part but this is a lie, a purposeful disorientation. Anyhow, you are responsible for what you publish, either for the content of the information or for the reliability of the person you interview.

I am writing to you because this is not the first false information about the Hungarian government I read in Spiegel. Let me recall an earlier case what I can document. In Der Spiegel Nr. 4/23.1.12 Jean Asselborn, foreign minister of Luxembourg said the following:

„Die Medien stehen seit einem Jahr unter der Kontrolle der Regierung. Die freie Meinungsäußerung wurde abgeschafft, die Gewaltenteilung wird missachtet.“

This was a capital lie. You followed the same method like now: the disorientation was not said directly by Der Spiegel, you gave the lies into the mouth of somebody else.

Sir, you are gambling with what is the most important for a newspaper: credibility. You may dislike the ideological course and political practice of the present Hungarian government but in your criticism you should remain within fairness and correctness. If you are so keen on the quality of democracy, you should not build German democracy on lies and the disorientation of the Germans.

Disillusionedly yours,

dr. Károly Kiss
Budapest