

Economic Round Table Meeting at DUIHK
with German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul,
Hungarian Minister for Economy and Energy István Kapitány
and leading representatives of German companies in Hungary

14. September 2026

Opening Remarks by Dr. Róbert Keszte, President of DUIHK

Minister Wadephul,
Minister Kapitány,
State Secretary Fábián,
State Secretary Zolnay,
Ambassador Schönfelder,
Ambassador Györkös,
Members of the German Bundestag,
Representatives of the Federal Foreign Office,
Distinguished business leaders from Germany and Hungary,

Welcome to the German-Hungarian **Chamber of Industry and Commerce**.

It is a great honour for us to host this roundtable today.

This event comes at an important moment.

It is the first meeting of this kind after the change of government in Hungary and during a period of renewed German-Hungarian political dialogue.

Germany and Hungary have built a **strong economic partnership** over many decades.

German companies are among the most important investors in Hungary.
They have contributed significantly to economic growth, innovation, exports, and employment.

At the same time, Hungary has become an important production and development hub for **many** German companies and their global supply chains.

Our common success is based on **cooperation, trust**, and a shared commitment to **Europe's future**.



Building on this success, we must now focus on the challenges that will shape our future competitiveness.

Today, Germany and Hungary face many similar challenges.

This is where I, as President of the Chamber, see further potential for our bilateral relations.

- We need to strengthen **European competitiveness** in a rapidly changing global environment.
- We need to accelerate **digital transformation** and the adoption of new technologies.
- We need **competitive energy prices**.
- We need to **ensure the availability** of skilled labour for our industries to create growth.
- And last but not least, we need to **reduce bureaucracy** at all levels and create faster, more efficient administrative processes.

These are shared challenges.

And they create a strong foundation for closer cooperation between our two countries.

Our countries are deeply connected through many industries and services, including - just to name a few - the automotive, defence, software, telecommunications, retail and energy sectors.

These sectors are also represented in today's roundtable.

For all of us, **strong and resilient European supply chains** are more important than ever.

Recent years have shown us how vulnerable global value chains can be.

Germany and Hungary can play an important role in strengthening integrated European supply chains and reducing strategic dependencies.

This is essential for the long-term success of European industry.



Stronger European supply chains mean **greater resilience, greater security, and greater competitiveness** for our economies.

As the German-Hungarian Chamber, we represent companies that make a significant contribution to the Hungarian economy.

Companies with a German background employ **230,000 people** directly in Hungary.

They generate revenues of **66 billion euros** and invested **5.4 billion euros** in 2024 alone.

This represented an impressive **19% of all corporate investments in Hungary**.

The mission of the chamber is to advance German-Hungarian economic relations, strengthen the competitiveness of our member companies, and support a business environment that enables growth, innovation, and investment.

In Germany, the German Chamber network and the DIHK are trusted partners of the government.

They provide practical experience from the business community and support evidence-based decision-making.

We hope to see a similarly close and constructive partnership here in Hungary with the new government.

A regular dialogue between government and business can help create the conditions for long-term economic success.



Today's roundtable offers an excellent opportunity to exchange views, discuss challenges, and identify areas where Germany and Hungary can work together even more closely.

I would like to thank Minister Wadehul, Minister Kapitány, and all participants for their presence and their commitment to strengthening German-Hungarian cooperation.

I wish us all an **open, constructive, and forward-looking** discussion.

Thank you for your attention.