

Summary of István Dobozi's May 2, 2017 op-ed in the Hungarian daily Magyar Nemzet: „Donald Trump száz napja”

In his op-ed "Donald Trump száz napja" (Donald Trump's Hundred Days), published in the May 2 issue of the Hungarian daily *Magyar Nemzet*, Coalition member István Dobozi takes stock of President Trump's first 100 days in office, focusing on the domestic agenda. The author makes the following salient points:

Regarding his ambitious "First 100 Day" program, the president has clearly underdelivered. In particular, he has failed to advance his extensive legislative agenda as not a single major bill has been passed by Congress during this period. As a result, the president has governed through issuing an avalanche of executive orders. However, there are real limits to governance this way: the courts have halted several of Trump's orders. Also, the lack of legislative accomplishments has sown doubts about the president's much-heralded effectiveness with cutting deals with lawmakers in Washington.

On the campaign trail, Mr. Trump demonstrated considerable political skills in building an effective *election coalition* to win the presidency. However, as president, he has largely failed to date to put together an effective *governing coalition*. Trump has not mastered Washington and Congress yet, and congressional Republicans have not mastered him. Republican House majority is still as fractured as before Trump arrived in Washington. The big political lesson from the first 100 days is that Trump's "I alone can fix it" won't work going forward. Without building an effective governing coalition across the political spectrum, the president is bound to face severe obstacles to implementing an extremely ambitious legislative agenda, including the passing of a comprehensive, radical tax reform package.

On the bright side, the president's market scorecard is surprisingly good despite fact that very few of his economic ideas have been translated into reality yet. Due to a post-election rally, stock markets have soared to record heights, business and consumer confidence indexes are sharply up and the dollar has strengthened. However, sustainability of these gains hinges crucially on Mr. Trump's ability to push associated legislative acts through Congress - a tall order if the first 100 days are a good guide to the future.
