

**The Russian and Eurasian Studies Program
and
The Center for Transatlantic Relations (CTR)
EU Center of Excellence Washington D.C.
at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies
Johns Hopkins University**

Invite you to

Hungary: A Second Change of the System?

with

The Hon. Pamela Quanrud
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe

Amb. Gyorgy Szapary
Ambassador of Hungary to the United States

Prof. Charles Gati
Interim Director, Russian and Eurasian Studies Program, SAIS

Amb. Kurt Volker, Moderator
Senior Fellow and Managing Director, Center for Transatlantic Relations, SAIS

During the 2010 election campaign, Hungarian Fidesz Leader Viktor Orban called for a "Second Change of the System" -- a reference to what Fidesz saw as an incomplete move away from the communist regime in 1989. Since last April, as Prime Minister, Orban has pushed through controversial changes to the constitution, introduced a media law that many regard as restrictive, enacted a retroactive -- in some cases 95% -- taxation on the former governments' "golden parachute" pensions, curtailed the Constitutional Court's authority over budgetary matters, offered Hungarian passports for ethnic Hungarians living in neighboring countries, issued surtaxes on the financial sector, and rejected recommendations by the IMF and the European Union. Are these changes the execution of Orban's vision of a "second change of the system" in order to complete Hungary's democratic transition? Or are they, as critics in Hungary and throughout Europe claim, a dangerous lurch to the right that threatens the underpinnings of Hungarian democracy? Hear leading officials and experts explore these sensitive and difficult questions.

When: Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Time: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Where: Rome Auditorium, SAIS, 1619 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

RSVP: Please RSVP to transatlanticsvp@jhu.edu with "Feb 9 Hungary" in the subject line.

Light refreshments will be available.