



DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS  
OMBUDSMAN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

---

**General Opinion and legislative proposal of the Ombudsman for Future Generations on  
the use of fireworks on New Year's Eve (2025)**

The Ombudsman for Future Generations (OFG) has issued a general opinion and legislative proposal on the use of pyrotechnic products for entertainment purposes on New Year's Eve, commonly known as fireworks. New Year's Eve fireworks pose significant environmental and health risks, including noise, light and air pollution, can cause injuries, and endanger wild animals, pets and farm animals also.

Under the current rules, a permit from the relevant authority is required for civil pyrotechnic activities (e.g. possession and use of fireworks) in a higher risk category (3, 4) depending on the risk and noise level. However, the legislator has provided an exception for medium-risk pyrotechnics (Class 3), on New Year's Eve, between the period of the 28th and 31st December. During this period individuals may purchase and use them without a permit.

However, the negative effects accumulate during mass use in this period and in addition, the legislator does not take into account several important aspects, such as the case-by-case consequences, individual sensitivity and animal welfare.

Articles XX and XXI of the Fundamental Law of Hungary guarantee the right to physical and mental health and to a healthy environment. In the context of the right to environment, the State cannot allow the environment to deteriorate or to risk such deterioration.

Regarding the private use of fireworks by individuals, the OFG proposed a general and complete ban on both the purchase and use of fireworks. Instead, fireworks should be used, where possible, on a community-by-community basis, with the assistance of a qualified pyrotechnician, and any other private use should be prohibited. Local governments are entitled to set more restrictive environmental standards by local decrees, enforce stricter local regulations on fireworks. Future celebrations should shift towards environmentally friendly and quieter alternatives.

*The full text of the general opinion in Hungarian is available here:*

[https://www.ajbh.hu/documents/10180/0/2041-2025-Figyelemfelhivas\\_jogalkotasi\\_tuzijatek.pdf](https://www.ajbh.hu/documents/10180/0/2041-2025-Figyelemfelhivas_jogalkotasi_tuzijatek.pdf)

Dr. Gyula Bándi

Ombudsman for Future Generations