

Mr. Zoltán Balog
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Dear Mr Balog,

I write to express the British Academy's deep concern at the imminent disruption to the outstanding work of the Central European University. The British Academy is the UK's national academy for the humanities and social sciences, which are fields that the Central European University has a well-deserved and hard-earned excellent reputation in.

This academic excellence and international profile is proven in many ways. In particular, the success the Central European University has had in developing and attracting world class Hungarian and international researchers through the European Research Council is of considerable credit to the strong reputation the University has established over twenty-five years since it has been based in Hungary.

The flourishing of the Central European University in Hungary has been an exceptional success story for Hungarian and international academia and one which we would very much regret if it came to an end. The legislative proposals that have been put forward jeopardise the ability of the Central European University to continue to flourish within Hungary and with knock-on effects we fear for the strong collaboration researchers from outside Hungary would wish to enjoy with our Hungarian counterparts.

We would urge that significant concerted discussion and open consultation takes place as soon as possible with the Central European University and the Hungarian academic community before the proposed legislative changes go forward further. We strongly believe that any such dialogue and consultation will be worth the effort on your part to ensure that the Hungarian research community, including the Central European University, continue to have the best chances to promote research of excellent quality, of safeguarding its reputation and effectiveness, and of developing its role as a valued international partner.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Ash Amin CBE FBA
Foreign Secretary & Vice President

CC: Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary; Office of the Prime Minister of Hungary; and, the Central European University