

Secretariat ALLEA | Jägerstr. 22/23 | 10117 Berlin | Germany

Mr Zoltán Balog  
Minister of Human Capacities  
1054 Budapest, Akadémia utca 3.  
Hungary

**President**

Prof. Dr. Günter Stock

c/o Berlin-Brandenburg Academy  
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Dear Minister Balog,

We have learned with deep concern of the proposed legislative changes to Act CCIV of 2011 on National Higher Education, which would negatively affect the status of the Central European University (CEU) in Hungary. ALLEA – the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities – expresses full solidarity with the CEU, an internationally renowned scientific institution with a track record both in carrying out highest quality research and providing top-level education to Hungarian and international scientists and scholars.

ALLEA currently unites 59 Academies from 40 countries in the Council of Europe region. Member Academies operate as learned societies, think tanks and research performing organisations. The Hungarian Academy of Sciences is among ALLEA's founding members. ALLEA remains fully independent from political, religious, ideological or commercial interests and continuously strives for academic freedom and the autonomy of scientific institutions.

On behalf of our member academies, we would like to make a plea for upholding the autonomy of Hungarian academic organisations and institutions, including the CEU. We consider the proposed legislation a fundamental threat to basic and internationally valid principles of conducting science and research, including scientific excellence, self-governance and academic freedom.

We urge that those principles are guaranteed in order for the scientific community of Hungary to fulfil its tasks and mandates and to contribute to social and economic well-being, and development. The reputation of the Hungarian science and research system is threatened to be undermined if one of its most outstanding research institutions finds itself unable to operate on the basis of internationally recognised principles.

We join the many colleagues from Hungary and from all over the world who have already expressed their concerns regarding the legislative proposals, and who pointed to the high reputation of CEU and consequently the benefits it provides for the Hungarian academic community and scientific system as a whole.

We also truly believe that any legislation in the field of research and education policy in general would greatly benefit from a closer dialogue and thorough consultation between the political authorities and representatives of the scientific community. We thus fully support and very much welcome the offer of the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to mediate in any further deliberations.

In order for the traditionally excellent and internationally renowned Hungarian science base to continue its leading and pioneering role in the region and its strong European and international partnerships, we truly hope that the Hungarian Government re-considers the detrimental and discriminatory nature of the proposed legislation and enters into direct deliberations with the scientific community.

We thank you for your consideration and remain with kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Stock', written in a cursive style.

Professor Günter Stock  
*President of ALLEA*

In copy to:

- Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;
- Office of the Prime Minister;
- Central European University;