



SLOVAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

at the Slovak Academy of Sciences

Klemensova 19, P.O. Box 198, 814 99 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

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Declaration of solidarity

The Executive Board of the Slovak Historical Society (SHS) at the Slovak Academy of Sciences would like to declare its solidarity with Central European University (CEU) and voice its deep concern at efforts of the Hungarian government to limit or completely terminate the activities of the CEU in Hungary. Due to the long tradition of mutual cooperation and excellent contacts between the Slovak historical community and our colleagues employed at the CEU, we consider the proposed legislative changes to CEU's status to be extremely harmful for the academic freedom in the whole region.

These changes threaten the academic freedom crucial for the continued existence of this exceptional place for historical research in Central Europe. Several members of SHS are CEU alumni; others were granted various fellowships or participated in joint scientific projects, which greatly contributed to raising the standard of the historical research in the whole region. The forced dissolution of CEU, one of the leading institutions of historical research in our region, would mean an irreplaceable loss for the whole Central European historiography.

Even after the 1989, different academic communities in the Central and Eastern Europe have experienced politically motivated attempts to restrain the freedom of research. When Slovak historians faced such challenge in the 1990, they received strong support from the international academic community, including the just established CEU. Realizing the importance of such international academic solidarity, the Slovak Historical Society expresses strong support for CEU in its struggle to maintain its academic freedom, which is the essential condition enabling all academic institutions to function and flourish.

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Slovak Historical Society,

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President of the SHS