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**Sent:** Friday, April 7, 2017 4:22 AM

**To:** [Haszoniczne.Maria@keh.hu](mailto:Haszoniczne.Maria@keh.hu); [Konnyid.Balazs@keh.hu](mailto:Konnyid.Balazs@keh.hu)

**Cc:** Support\_for\_CEU

**Subject:** In Support of CEU (Philosophy Department, University of Manchester, UK)

Dear President Ader

I am writing to you in my capacity as Head of the Philosophy Department at the University of Manchester, UK, on behalf of my colleagues in the Department, to express concern about the higher education bill accepted by the Hungarian Parliament on 4 April.

We believe that the proposed changes are not in Hungary's interests, would endanger the academic freedom vital for CEU's continued operation in Budapest and would strike a blow against the academic freedom that enables all universities, including those in Hungary, to flourish.

The CEU Philosophy department is home to world class scholars, and attracts students visiting philosophers from all over the world to spend time in Hungary. I myself have visited CEU — it is the only time I have been to Hungary — and one of our graduates, the best student in his year, is currently studying for a Master's degree there. I am sure very many other academics across the world would say similar things.

CEU's Philosophy department is a valued member of the international academic community and its presence in Hungary has added enormously to the reputation of Hungarian academic life on the international stage. The government's proposed legislation to alter CEU's statute of operation will be disastrous to Hungary's international academic stature and to its ability to educate its students to a standard that enables them to compete with the best and brightest from across the globe.

I respectfully urge you not to sign the bill, and to enter consultation with CEU, bearing in mind the damage such legislation might do to Hungary's well-founded international academic reputation, to its relationships with its European partners and with the United States.

Yours sincerely

Prof. Helen Beebee

Head, Department of Philosophy

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