

April 5, 2017

Mr. Zoltán Balog

Minister of Human Capacities

1054 Budapest, Akadémia utca 3.

Hungary

Dear Minister Balog,

As members of the law faculty at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem we are writing to express solidarity with Central European University (hereinafter 'CEU') and express concern at proposed legislative changes to CEU's status in Hungary. These changes 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 anywhere in the world to flourish. As a fellow institution devoted to the learning of the law, we are deeply and especially concerned with the destructive effects the proposed legislation would levy on our fellow academics and students at CEU's Department of Legal Studies.

In twenty-five years, Central European University has established itself as a private international university with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities. CEU is a valued member of the international academic community and its presence in Hungary has added to the reputation of Hungarian academic life on the international stage and has fostered ties with academic institutions around the globe, including Israeli colleagues of ours who teach at CEU. Moreover, the Hungarian government's proposed legislation would not only compromise the academic freedom of CEU but also set a dangerous precedent for academic life in other countries.

We respectfully urge the government to withdraw the proposed legislation and enter consultation with CEU, bearing in mind the damage such legislation might do to Hungary's well-founded international academic reputation and to the relationships of the Hungarian academy with the international academic community.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Michael Karayanni, Dean

Professor Barak Medina

Dr. Ori Herstein

Dr. Adam Hofri

Professor Yuval shani

Dr. Einat Elbin

Professor Re'em Segev

Professor David Enoch

Professor Tomer Broude

Professor Yoav Dotan

Professor Barak Medina

Professor Moshe Hirsh

Professor Alon Harel

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CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;

Office of the Prime Minister;

Central European University

Central European University, Department of Legal Studies