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Sent: Sunday, April 02, 2017 12:52 PM

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Subject: The Faculty of the Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University, Sweden supports CEU

Mr. Zoltán Balog

Minister of Human Capacities

1054 Budapest, Akadémia utca 3.

Hungary

The Faculty of the Department of Philosophy

Stockholm University

10691 Stockholm

Sweden

April 2, 2017

Dear Minister Balog,

we, the faculty of the Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University, are writing to express solidarity with the Central European University and to 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, including those in Hungary, to flourish.

In twenty-five years, the 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. It attracts students from 117 countries and faculty from 40. The University as a whole is accredited by the US Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), and its masters and doctoral programs are registered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). Its programs are also certified by appropriate Hungarian authorities, and it has complied in full with all Hungarian laws.

In international rankings, some of CEU's departments are rated among the top 50 in the world. CEU also makes Hungary a regional leader in winning highly competitive European Research Council grants. Several of its faculty, in fields as various as medieval studies, network and cognitive science, have won

the most prestigious awards in their disciplines. Our own department has long-standing, extremely fruitful and valuable academic connections with the Department of Philosophy at the CEU. The CEU department clearly is amongst the best in Europe, making a significant contribution to the standing of European philosophy in the world. Together with 6 other leading departments in Europe, we were partners in the Marie Curie Actions Initial Training Network *Perspectival Thoughts and Facts* (FP7-PEOPLE-ITN-2008, Project number 238128). During the academic year 2008/9, Katalin Farkas, one of the CEU department's internationally prominent researchers, was an extremely appreciated guest of our department having been awarded the prestigious Kerstin Hesselgren Visiting Professorship by the Swedish Research Council (VR).

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. The government's proposed legislation to alter its statute of operation in Hungary would compromise its academic freedom and 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, to its relationships with its European partners and with the United States.

Yours sincerely,

The Faculty of the Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University, Sweden

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cc: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary; Office of the Prime Minister; Lilla Makay, Hungarian Ambassador to Sweden; Central European University