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Sent: Saturday, April 01, 2017 11:40 AM
To: info@emmi.gov.hu
Cc: orbanviktork@orbanviktork.hu; erkeztetok@me.gov.hu; Support_for_CEU
<Support_for_CEU@ceu.edu>
Subject: Letter of concern about the future of Central European University

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

Dear Minister Balog,

As director of the Herder-Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe in Marburg and professor for history at Justus-Liebig-University Giessen I would like to express my solidarity with Central European University. I also want to voice my deep concerns at the proposed legislative changes to CEU's status in Hungary. These changes would not only endanger the academic freedom vital for CEU's continued operation in Budapest. I am also convinced that such a step would cause irreparable damage to the competitiveness and the high reputation of Hungarian academia on the international stage.

As is widely known throughout German and European academia, 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. Some of CEU's departments are rated among the top 50 in the world, making Hungary a regional leader in winning highly competitive European Research Council grants. 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.

The government's proposed legislation to alter its statute of operation in Hungary would compromise its academic freedom. As protests from many respected academics all over Hungary and the world clearly demonstrate, CEU is not only a highly valued member of the national as well as international academic community. The proposed legislation is also regarded to be a of significance for how much academic freedom that enables all universities in Hungary to flourish is being valued by the Hungarian Ministry of Human Capacities.

Therefore we respectfully urge the government to withdraw the proposed legislation and enter into consultation with CEU, bearing in mind the damage such legislation might do to Hungary's relationships with its European partners and with the United States.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Haslinger
CC: Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary;
Office of the Prime Minister;

Central European University
Prof. Dr. Peter Haslinger

Direktor

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