

Prof. Dr. Julius H. Schoeps
MOSES MENDELSSOHN ZENTRUM e.V. · AM NEUEN MARKT 8 · D-14467 POTSDAM

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

Cc: orbanviktor@orbanviktor.hu, erkeztetok@me.gov.hu, Support_for_CEU@ceu.edu

Potsdam, April 3rd 2017

Dear Minister Balog,

As the Director of the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European-Jewish Studies at Potsdam University, I would like to express my deep concern about the legislation proposing substantial changes in the status of the Central European University.

We think that these proposed changes represent a real challenge for the future existence of this outstanding academic institution, which has operated for more than 25 years, has enriched European academic culture, has served as a center of academic innovation, and has always stood out as a reliable partner of universities across Europe and beyond.

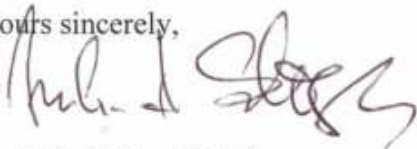
One of the hallmarks of the CEU's operation, academic cooperation with universities and research institutions across Europe, and not in the least in central and eastern central Europe, has contributed considerably to the intellectual and political wealth of our continent.

You will be aware that Mr. Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary, himself has enjoyed the benefits of the CEU's academic training.

We would like to express our solidarity with the Central European University and call upon you to reconsider the proposed legislation. To carry through this project would significantly impoverish the Hungarian and European landscape in Jewish Studies, and undoubtedly constitute a major loss also in the many other disciplines in which the CEU excels.

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,



Prof. Dr. Julius H. Schoeps

CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;
Office of the Prime Minister; Central European University