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Carlos MOEDAS,

Commissioner, Research, Science and Innovation

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Dear Professor Luchetti, Dear Commissioner Modeas

We are contacting you to express our deep concern about recent political developments in Hungary. New legislation that could be passed any day threatens the existence of Central European University (CEU), the institution hosting our research projects funded by the European Commission. This legislation would force CEU to cease its operations in Hungary. For more details, see

<https://www.ceu.edu/article/2017-03-28/ceu-responds-proposed-amendments-hungarian-higher-education-law>

The threat to CEU also poses a very significant threat to the success to the numerous Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions and ERC projects we are involved in. If CEU cannot continue its operations, we will lose our research facilities and will be forced to relocate. CEU provides a unique working environment for our research due to its focus on academic freedom, research excellence, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Losing this environment would jeopardize the

implementation and success of our research projects.

According to the statistics, CEU is one of the most successful institutions in terms of attracting European Commission funding to Central and Eastern Europe. It is disheartening for us that the Hungarian government is about to destroy this exceptional success of a unique Hungarian university that is proud to bring international scientific excellence to Budapest with the generous support of the European Commission. We urge you to show your support for Marie Skłodowska-Curie grantees at CEU by contacting the relevant Hungarian authorities and to join the CEU President and Rector Michael Ignatieff in convincing the Hungarian government to withdraw the new legislation. We suggest that a statement of support from the European Commission's Research Executive Agency (REA) would exert strong pressure on the government to re-evaluate the expected consequences of the proposed changes to the Higher Education Act.

Signed by:

Marie Skłodowska-Curie grantees at CEU:

Ayse Caglar, Prem Kumar Rajaram 2006-2010

Eva Gedeon 2007-2010

Anton Pelinka / Karin Stoegner 2009-2011

Gabor Toka 2006-2008, 2009-2013

Katalin Farkas 2010-2013

Paul Roe / Thomas Fetzner 2010-2013

Victor Karady / Emese Lafferton 2011-2014

Gergely Csibra / Olivier Mascaro 2011-2013

Vlad Naumescu / Daniel Monterescu 2011-2014

Jasmina Lukic / Borbala Farago 2012-2013

Renata Uitz / Simone Benvenuti 2012-2014

Violetta Zentai / Kiril Sharapov 2013-2014

Judit Bodnar / Dorit Geva 2013-2016

Nikolai Sitter / Andreas Goldthau 2014-2016

Gergely Csibra / Jozsef Fiser 2013-2016

Gunther Knoblich / John Michael 2014-2016

Violetta Zentai 2012-2016, 2013-2017, 2014-2017

Martin Kahanec 2013-2017

Andras Kovacs / Luca Varadi 2016-2018

Jasmina Lukic 2015-2019

Violetta Zentai / Celine Cantat 2017-2019

Agnes Kovacs 2015-2018

Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant management at CEU:

Zsuzsanna GÁBOR, Director, Academic Cooperation and Research Support Office

Noémi Anna Kovács, European Cooperation Projects Officer