

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the European Public Choice Society, which I chair as President, I am writing to express our solidarity with the Central European University and express our concern at the proposed legislative changes to the CEU's status in Hungary. These changes would endanger the academic freedom vital for the 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.

The 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 CEU staff includes widely respected members of the European Public Choice Society. This year's annual meeting of our society will be hosted by the CEU, attracting a large number of leading international public choice economists to Budapest. The government's proposed legislation to alter its statute of operation in Hungary would compromise 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.

Sincerely,

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