



VYTAUTAS MAGNUS  
UNIVERSITY  
— M C M X X I I —

April 7, 2017

His Excellency, Dr. Janos Ader, President of the Republic of Hungary  
Office of the President of the Republic of Hungary  
1536 Budapest, Pf. 227  
Hungary

Dear HE President Ader,

We, the academic community of Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania, stand in complete solidarity with Central European University and are deeply concerned about the recent legal amendments in Hungary which restrict the functioning of the country's universities and may result in the closing of the CEU, setting a dangerous precedent of limiting academic freedom and severely damaging not only the fruitful international collaboration between scholars in Hungary and around the world, but also consequently impairing international investment and employment opportunities in Hungary as a whole.

Central European University is widely recognized as one of the region's highest ranked universities in the fields of social sciences and the humanities, a major academic hub which draws in students and professors from all over the globe. It has established a prestigious reputation of singular scientific excellence in Central Europe in no small part due to its faculty's international focus, which is now sadly under threat.

Many students from Vytautas Magnus University and other academic institutions in Lithuania have also studied at Central European University and benefitted greatly from the opportunity to broaden their knowledge with the help of CEU's distinguished professors. A number of Vytautas Magnus University's own professors have also been warmly welcomed and taught at CEU, engaging in the invaluable exchange of academic expertise in one of the principal international higher education institutions of the continent.

We consider the recent legal amendments highly damaging to the global academic community and thus urge you to take action in order to seek more appropriate solutions that would protect and preserve the freedom and autonomy of universities.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman of VMU Council  
HE President Valdas Adamkus

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VMU Rector  
Juozas Augutis

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Juozas Augutis".

Chairman of VMU Senate  
Zigmas Lydeka

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President of VMU Students' Council  
Greta Šmaižytė

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