

A Government proposal for the amendment of the law on higher education is being debated in the Hungarian Parliament. It will have relevant effects for the academic institutions in Hungary (notably on the Central European University). The European Confederation of Political Science Association (ECPSA) wishes to speak out against any measure that limits or damages in any way the academic freedom in any higher education institution in Europe. A good number of our colleagues in the department of political science will see their everyday activity undermined by the abovementioned decision. The internationally recognized quality of that work developed by the Hungarian colleagues may be at risk if that reform is pushed forward. That work has been an outstanding contribution to political science at large, in many different fields.

Therefore, the ECPSA calls the Hungarian authorities to reconsider their position, avoiding any limitation on the academic freedom higher education institutions (such as the European Central University) have been enjoyed up until today, with outstanding results for the world-wide academic community. Those conditions for the development of free and independent academic activity are a key public asset. We hope the Hungarian authorities realize how important they are for democratic political system, how much they can contribute to its quality, and why they should be protected and fostered anywhere if democracy is to endure.

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