

TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES



東京外国語大学

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Tokyo, April 7, 2017

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

An Open Letter to Minister of Human Capacities of Hungary, Mr. Zoltán Balog

Dear Minister Balog,

We are writing to express our deepest concern regarding the proposed legislation that would prevent Central European University from staying in Budapest. As historians at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, which specializes in humanities and social sciences with a special focus on interdisciplinary area studies, we have developed a very rich and successful cooperation with Central European University, including an academic cooperation agreement, joint research projects, frequent exchange of academics, and intensive study programs with guest professors from CEU, etc. Some of signers below named stayed at CEU for more than a year for academic activity. We acknowledge that CEU has become one of the most excellent and important institutions in the humanities and social sciences in a relatively short time period, and it is today an indispensable academic partner for multiple academic centers not only across Europe and the USA, but throughout the world.

CEU is known to represent the values of open society and free thinking. It is an intellectual port where academics, students and intellectuals from all over the world can come together for new inspirations, to mutually exchange opinions, and to participate in challenging researches as a starting point of their intellectual journey.

We are following the latest developments around CEU with great concern. We are sincerely concerned that the new proposed legislation could threaten or even fatally damage CEU as an independent academic institution. We are convinced that CEU has and will contribute to the enriching of academic life in Hungary.

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Sincerely

Kayoko HAYASHI, Vice President of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Professor

Toshiyuki CHIBA, Professor, PhD.

Chiho FUKUSHIMA, Senior Assistant Professor, PhD.

Takeshi ITO, Associate Professor, PhD.

Kotaro KANAI, Professor

Junko KUME, Associate Professor, PhD.

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Taku SHINOHARA, Professor, PhD.

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