

To: [Haszonicsne.Maria@keh.hu](mailto:Haszonicsne.Maria@keh.hu); [Konnyid.Balazs@keh.hu](mailto:Konnyid.Balazs@keh.hu)  
CC: [Support\\_for\\_CEU@ceu.edu](mailto:Support_for_CEU@ceu.edu)

April 08th, 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,

As concerned citizens in Hungary, Europe, and around the world, we are writing to express solidarity with Central European University and express concern regarding Bill T/14686 amending the Hungarian Higher Education Act and accepted by the Hungarian Parliament on April 4, 2017. The Bill renders CEU's continued operations in Budapest virtually impossible and strikes a severe blow against the academic freedom that enables all universities, including those in Hungary, to flourish. Further the bill raises significant legal and constitutional concerns.

As a result, we respectfully urge you to refrain from signing the Bill and to refer it to the Constitutional Court of Hungary on the following grounds, among others:

- **It limits the right to education and freedom of science, research, and academic life**
- **It discriminates by disproportionately targeting foreign higher education institutions** by requiring them to operate a campus in their country of origin.
- **It breaches law-making procedures.** The bill was adopted in an exceptional procedure and without consultation with the affected parties, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and the Hungarian Rectors' Conference, as entitled under law.

In twenty-five years, Central European University has established itself as a private international university with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities. It attracts students from 117 countries and faculty from 40. The University as a whole is accredited by the US Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), and its masters and doctoral programs are registered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). Its programs are also certified by appropriate Hungarian authorities and it has complied in full with all Hungarian laws.

Furthermore, this amendment curtails academic freedom in Hungary, which in turn will have negative consequences for investment and employment in Hungary. The cause of academic freedom has strong support from private citizens and institutions in Hungary and around the world. These include the distinguished Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Corvinus University, ELTE University, University of Szeged, and many universities around the world—from Oxford and Cambridge to Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and scores of others. The European Commissioner for Education, Culture, and Sport, Tibor Navracsics; former President of the Republic of Hungary, Laszlo Solyom; German President, Frank-Walter Steinmeyer; former Governor of New York George Pataki; the U.S. Department of State, as well as 19 Nobel Laureates have also publicly voiced their concern. Additionally, over 47,000 petitioners and more than 1,400 individuals have written to Prime Minister Orban and Minister Balog in support of academic freedom and CEU.

We urge you to act on your Presidential prerogative and send the Bill to the Constitutional Court of Hungary where the above concerns regarding its legality and constitutionality can be appropriately reviewed to protect the proud tradition of Hungarian academic life and preserve its autonomy and freedom.

Yours sincerely,

Carmen Leiderieter, John Foster, Ahmed Ahami, Ela Habibi, Ulrike Maaner  
on behalf of the Department of Anthropology at Manchester University, United Kingdom

CC: Central European University