



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

7 April, 2017

Dear Minister Balog,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the Government of Hungary's legislative changes to the status of the Central European University (CEU) in Hungary. As the CEU itself has objected, this action threatens the academic independence, freedom and excellence of the University as an institution of higher education.

The Colorado European Union Center of Excellence (CEUCE) provides specialized fora for the exchange of information between universities, private-sector businesses and trade organizations, as well as NGOs and relevant government offices. We have undertaken partnerships across our campus with the private sector, with non-profit educational organizations and with higher educational institutions in our Mountain West network.

We share the view of the American Political Science Association, the London School of Economics and University College London that the Central European University has established itself as a private international university with a global reputation that should be protected as an invaluable magnet of the highest quality students and scholars from Central Europe and beyond, and as an engine of innovation in Hungary. I likewise understand that the legislation would violate Hungary's legal obligations to protect academic freedom, including under international covenants that Hungary has ratified.

We respectfully urge the Government to ensure that students and scholars at CEU are able to pursue their teaching, research, studies and scholarship with the full protection of academic freedom that the university has historically experienced, including considering the reversal of any legislation that would undermine such academic freedom.

Sincerely,

Colorado European Union Center of Excellence  
Josef Korbel School of International Studies  
University of Denver  
Denver, Colorado, USA

CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;  
Office of the Prime Minister;  
CEU President and Rector Michael Ignatieff

**Josef Korbel School of International Studies**

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