



April 1, 2017

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

Dear Minister Balog,

As a Dean of a leading global business school I want to express my solidarity with Central European University and share my concern regarding proposed legislative changes to CEU's status in Hungary. These changes would endanger the academic freedom vital for CEU's continued operation in Budapest and would strike a blow against the academic freedom that enables all universities, including those in Hungary, to flourish.

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. In international rankings, some of CEU's departments are rated among the top 50 in the world. Quite an achievement for a University established only 25 years ago. CEU also makes Hungary a regional leader in winning highly competitive European Research Council grants. Several of its faculty, in fields as various as medieval studies, network and cognitive science, have won the most prestigious awards in their disciplines.

CEU is a valued member of the international academic community and its presence in Hungary has added to the reputation of Hungarian academic life on the international stage. The government's proposed legislation to alter its statute of operation in Hungary would compromise its academic freedom and set a dangerous precedent for academic life in other countries.

I respectfully urge the government to review the proposed legislation and enter consultation with CEU, bearing in mind the damage such legislation might do to Hungary's well-founded international academic reputation, to its relationships with its European partners and with the United States.

Yours sincerely,

Ilian Mihov, Dean Rausing Chaired Professor of Economic Transformation INSEAD

CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary; Office of the Prime Minister;  
Central European University

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