



universität
wien

Institut für Geschichte

Mr. Zoltán Balog
Minister of Human Capacities
Akadémia utca 3
1054 Budapest
Hungary
info@emmi.gov.hu

Universitätsring 1
A-1010 Wien
Tel.: +43/1/4277-40801
Fax: + 43/1/4277-9408
E-Mail: Geschichte@univie.ac.at
Homepage: www.univie.ac.at/Geschichte

CC: - Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary (orbanviktor@orbanviktor.hu)
- Office of the Prime Minister (erkeztetok@me.gov.hu)
- Central European University (Support_for_CEU@ceu.edu)
- Christian Kern, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria (christian.kern@bka.gv.at)
- Reinhold Mitterlehner, Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Science, Research and Economy (reinhold.mitterlehner@bmwfw.gv.at)
- Thomas Drozda, Federal Minister (thomas.drozda@bka.gv.at)
- Dean's office of the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies (guntram.schneider@univie.ac.at)
- Rector's office of the University of Vienna (buero.rektorat@univie.ac.at)
- MEP Petra Kammerevert, European Parliament, Chairman of the Culture and Education Committee (petra.kammerevert@europarl.europa.eu)
- Frans Timmermans, Vice President of the European Commission (frans-timmermans-contact@ec.europa.eu)
- Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner (cab-navracsics-contact@ec.europa.eu)

Vienna, April 3, 2017

Dear Minister Balog,

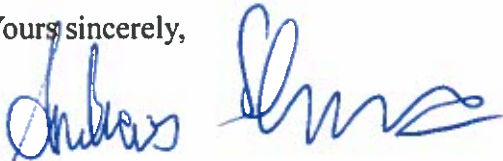
We, professors, lecturers, researchers, research-fellows and doctoral students of the Department of History at the University of Vienna, are seriously concerned about legislation proposed on March 28 which threatens the academic freedom of the Central European University in Budapest, and we are writing to express our strong solidarity with CEU. We are particularly concerned about the speed with which these changes are about to be implemented despite their potentially far-reaching impact on an institution operating on an international level. These changes, now already a matter of international concern as well as of anxieties among many scholars in Austria, would endanger the academic freedom vital for CEU's continued operation in Budapest and they would strike a blow against the academic freedom that enables all universities, including those in Hungary, to flourish.

Over the last two decades, our institute has repeatedly entered into vital exchanges with prominent scholars at CEU. Members of our institute have accepted invitations to lecture and to teach at CEU, joint research collaborations have been established, and several of CEU's faculty, including prominent Hungarian scholars, visited our institute and participated on common projects. We have always hoped and still do that this exchange, in which other academic institutions are involved and of which numerous scholars and students in both our countries have greatly benefited, would continue and intensify.

Our countries share a common past and a long tradition of academic cooperations in which CEU as a leading academic institution in this region has played a significant and irreplaceable role. The contribution of CEU's history institutes has been especially remarkable. Beyond this, CEU is a valued member of the international academic community, a university with a uniquely global reputation of which few countries in this region can boast. CEU's 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. Consequences of CEU's destruction would reach far beyond Hungary and would have irreparable repercussions in all countries in the region.

We respectfully, but in the strongest possible terms, urge the government to withdraw 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 and to its relationships with its partners in Europe and beyond.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Andreas Schwarcz
Head of Department

Members of Department:

Andreas Pross
Gabriella Parich
S. P.
Jek. Marku
W. C. C. C.
D. A. H. J.
H. K.
H. D. A. S. H.

Sabine Koch
Thomas Angerer
Prigita Koch-Dean
Judit Jurgon
Thomas W. C. C.
H. K. C. C.
E. R. C. C.
G. C. C. C.
H. K. C. C.
H. K. C. C.
H. K. C. C.
H. K. C. C.