



Paris, 31 March 2017

Dear Professor Ignatieff,

The Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (NetIAS) which gathers 23 IAS in 16 countries in Europe shares the concerns of the Central European University (CEU) about the proposed amendments to Act CCN of 2011 on National Higher Education, submitted to the Hungarian Parliament on March 28th, 2017.

We fear that the amendment threatens the very existence of this outstanding university. An internationally renowned and respected academic institution, CEU has served for many years as a focal point of research in Central and Eastern Europe. It has helped to academically integrate Central and Eastern with Western Europe while connecting both with the rest of the world.

International exchange of and between scholars is the essence of high-quality research. Different and critical perspectives transcend national horizons. The Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study operates on these principles, and so does the CEU-IAS, rightly famous for its diverse and international faculty. Nationalizing the Hungarian academic landscape not only threatens the country's international reputation, it harms academic freedom itself.

We strongly support the continuation of the CEU-IAS, a proud member of our network since its creation and of the EURIAS Fellowship Programme cofunded by the European Commission as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action. As a recognition of its key importance in our community, CEU-IAS will be hosting the NetIAS and EURIAS Annual Meetings in April 2018.

The Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study expresses its strong solidarity with and support to Central European University in protecting the freedom of higher education and academic research.

Sincerely yours,

Olivier Bouin, Director of NEFIAS (France), acting coordinator of EURIAS Consortium
Simon Goldhill, Director of CRASSH (UK), co-president of NetIAS
Morten Kyndrup, Director of AIAS (Denmark), coordinator of the UBIAS Network
Bernd Kortmann, Director of FRIAS (Germany), former coordinator of the UBIAS network
Michal Linial, Director of IIAS (Israel), co-president of NetIAS