



12 April 2017

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

**Status of Central European University (CEU)**

Dear Minister Balog:

We are writing to express our profound concern about the amendment to the National Higher Education Act 2011, which introduces new conditions for non-EU higher education institutions in Hungary. In particular, this legislation would affect the status of Central European University (CEU) and could threaten the academic freedom in teaching and research that is essential to CEU being an outstanding university.

The European Union Studies Association is a US-based scholarly association with more than 500 members in the US and around the world, including at CEU. Many of our members have worked for, studied at, or visited CEU. Yet others have collaborated with scholars based there.

We respectfully urge the government to ensure that students and scholars at CEU are able to pursue their studies and scholarship with full academic freedom, including considering withdrawing legislation that would undermine such academic freedom.

Sincerely yours,

Alasdair Young (Chair)  
Abraham Newman (Vice Chair)  
Michele Chang (Executive Committee member)  
Frédéric Mérand (Executive Committee member)  
Nanette Neuwahl (Executive Committee member)  
Waltraud Schelkle (Executive Committee member)

CC: Dr. Michael Ignatieff, President and Rector of CEU