



MAG.<sup>A</sup> MARIA VASSILAKOU

VIZEBÜRGERMEISTERIN

AMTSFÜHRENDE STADTRÄTIN FÜR  
STADTENTWICKLUNG, VERKEHR, KLIMASCHUTZ,  
ENERGIEPLANUNG UND  
BÜRGERINNENBETEILIGUNG  
VON WIEN

Mr. Michael IGNATIEFF  
President und Rector  
Central European University

Vienna, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017  
Vol/Boe

Dear Mr Michael Ignatieff,

It is with great concern that the City of Vienna is following the current developments in Budapest. The possible consequences for the Central European University by new legislation in Hungary have not gone unnoticed and therefore, I would like to first assure you our full solidarity and support in challenging this legislation.

The Central European University fulfils a special role in the academic life of our region and Europe as a whole. The current political developments in the region have already had alarming effects on the civic life in our countries and it is of the utmost importance that we all stand united against efforts to undermine the freedom of democratic and academic institutions such as the CEU.

Should the necessity arise, I would very much like you to consider Vienna as a possible new home for the Central European University. Vienna is still the number one melting pot for Central Europe and has been so for more than a century. Vienna is one of a kind and a vibrant university city in the region with perfect infrastructure within short range of Budapest. Moreover, the ever increasing international environment would offer the diversity, inspiration and solid basis an institution like the CEU needs. We offer our support to keep up the outstanding academic work in the heart of Central Europe and we would be honoured to welcome you and your university in Vienna in case you should consider relocation.

I am confident that CEU would make a significant contribution to our city and at the same time retain its function as an academic hub as well as backbone for civil society in Central Europe.

Sincerely yours,