

# Letter of support for the CEU by the EUI community

March, 31, 2017



In recent days it has emerged that the Hungarian Government is [trying to close down](#) Central European University ('CEU') in Budapest – often called "[the university built to defend democracy](#)" and the one of the best higher education institutions in Central and Eastern Europe. Many members of the EUI, including some of the professors, have been previously doing research, studying, or teaching at CEU. They stand as testimony of the high academic standards of the CEU. We believe that what is happening in Hungary is an attack not only to CEU, but to academic freedom more broadly. Hence, we urge all members of the EUI to express solidarity with CEU. We also propose to the leadership of the EUI that they suggest the CEU be included on the list of universities with special status of the European Commission, like the EUI, the College of Europe or Maastricht University. This would permit CEU to continue its activity in Budapest under full independence and academic freedom.

As researchers from around the world, we stand appalled at this outright attack against an institution which has promoted academic excellence for 25 years and played a huge role in re-connecting many post-communist countries to the global academic world. The existence of such a university in a region with few similar alternatives is of huge value, the destruction of which due to short term political considerations would be a tremendous tragedy, short-sighted and irresponsible. And it is not just a loss to the region but to the global academic community as a whole. Forcing any university to close down is obviously an assault on academic freedom which we must firmly stand united against at all times.

It is not just as academics but also as concerned citizens that we are expressing our protest. CEU has always been a champion of liberal democratic values and of open society, promoting it in a region which has too often been under the rule of autocratic regimes and does not have very long established democratic traditions. The attack of the Hungarian government against CEU is yet another step away from the values which we think serve as the foundations of Europe, and which we firmly believe in here at the EUI.

To better understand the situation, we include below the [CEU response](#) to the proposed amendments to the Hungarian Higher Education Law, from the official CEU website.

A [petition to support CEU's independence](#) has gathered over 25 000 signatures, and a number of other educational actors have issued statements of support with CEU. We hope that the EUI will stand in full solidarity with CEU and that it will also issue an official statement of support.

This letter is open to be signed by any member of the EUI, including professors, alumni and visiting researchers.

Members of the EUI Community

## **Signatures from the EUI Community:**

	Name and affiliation to the EUI
1	Gergő Motyovszki, PhD candidate at the Department of Economics
2	Sarah Engler, Visiting student
3	Kimón Markatos HEC researcher
4	Olga Cojocaru, SPS visiting student
5	Theresa Gessler, Researcher, CEU Alumna
6	Georgios Manalis / PhD researcher Economics
7	Anita Buhin, researcher
8	Endre Borbáth, IIIrd year researcher, SPS
9	Federica Coppola, Ph.D Candidate in Law
10	Stavros Pantazopoulos, PhD researcher in Law
11	Virginia Passalacqua, PhD Researcher
12	PhD Researcher
13	Rebecca Mignot-Mahdavi, Researcher
14	Peter Szigeti, MWF 2015-2016
15	Rutger Birnie, SPS Researcher
16	Samuel Schmid, SPS Researcher
17	Elie Michel, PhD Researcher
18	Noelle Richardson, 4th year researcher HEC
19	Anna Kandyla, Phd researcher
20	Agnieszka Sztajdel, PhD researcher
21	Feike Fliervoet, PhD Researcher
22	Argyri Panezi, Researcher at the Law Department
23	Elena Brodeala, PhD researcher in LAW
24	Maria Ana Barata, PhD Researcher
25	Simon Skipka, Researcher
26	Paula Zuluaga phd researcher
27	Paul Blokker, Alumnus
28	Armen Mazmanyán, EUI alum (2009)
29	Stavros Makris (EUI)
30	Gabor Halmai, Professor and Chair of Comparative Constitutional Law
31	Giuseppe Martinico, Scuola Sant'Anna, Pisa. Former Max Weber Fellow
32	Dorothee Bohle, SPS Department
33	Vita, researcher
34	Eva Thomann visiting fellow

35	Alica Ida Bonk, PhD researcher
36	Vera Scepanovic, Max Weber Fellow
37	Johannes Jüde Researcher
38	Raphaële Xenidis, Ph.D. researcher at the EUI
39	Cloe Caverro, EUI HEC alumna
40	Ileana Nicolau - SPS Researcher
41	Agnès Charpin - 2nd year economics researcher
42	Luigi Pedreschi - Researcher
43	Svetlana Poleschuk, Doctoral researcher, Department of Political and Social Sciences
44	John-Erik - HEC Researcher (4th year)
45	John-Erik Hansson (PhD student, History)
46	Nurfatima Jandarova (Researcher)
47	theodosia stavroulaki, researcher
48	Dieneke de Vos, PhD Candidate, Law Department
49	Julie Pinole, Researcher (Eco)
50	Lucila de Almeida (PhD Candidate)
51	Adérito Vicente, SPS PhD Researcher
52	Jan Rybak, PhD Researcher, Department of History and Civilization
53	Margherita Melillo, PhD student
54	Former fellow and part-time professor
55	Ruta Liepina, PhD Researcher
56	Sophia Hunger, researcher
57	Harri Ruohomäki, Law researcher
58	Nicholas Mithen - Researcher
59	Matteo Escudé
60	Jan Burek, PhD Researcher
61	Bogumila Hall, EUI alumna
62	Marijn van der Sluis, researcher
63	Alessandro Ferrari, researcher
64	Christophe Schellekens, PhD research in history
65	Dorit Brixius, HEC researcher (4th year)
66	Andreas R.D. Sanders, Ph.D. Researcher
67	Zeynep Simsek, Researcher
68	Elena Rizzi, HEC researcher
69	Andrea Talaber, Alumna
70	Antoni-Italo de Moragas, Department of Economics
71	Daniele Angelini Researcher
72	Lewis Miller - Researcher

73	Elzbieta Kwiecinska, EUI
74	PhD researcher
75	Camille Brugier Sps researcher
76	Margarita Zavadskaya, Researcher at the SPS department
77	Alexandra Pfeiff, PhD Researcher
78	Matic Petriček, student
79	Natalia Tellidou, SPS researcher
80	Viktor Marinkov, Economics PhD Researcher
81	Janneke van Casteren, PhD Researcher in Law
82	Doctor in History
83	Joldon Kutmanaliev, PhD researcher
84	Stefano Osella, EUI Researcher
85	Giorgio Tosco, researcher
86	Daniela Alaattinoglu, PhD Candidate
87	PhD researcher, ECO
88	Krzysztof Pytko (PhD candidate at the Department of Economics)
89	HEC
90	Tomasz Hen-Konarski, PhD (Alumnus, HEC)
91	Saša Vejzagić HEC
92	Turkay Gasimova, Researcher
93	Markus Jens Block, Researcher SPS
94	Carolina Zuccotti - Alumni
95	Maria Patrin, PhD Researcher Law
96	Researcher
97	Andres Reiljan, SPS Researcher
98	Visnja Vukov, EUI Alumna
99	PhD researcher
100	Jonathan Zaragoza, Research Associate
101	Juha Tuovinen, LAW
102	Laura Almagor, Alumna
103	Wim Muller, Law alumnus
104	Francesco Bagnardi - PhD Researcher
105	Ezgi Güler - SPS researcher
106	Martin Portos Garcia (alumnus)
107	LL.M Researcher
108	Koen Geven, SPS Researcher
109	Liiri Oja, PhD researcher
110	Anna Kyriazi PhD Researcher

111	Aleksandra Komornicka, Phd researcher
112	Sonia Ariza Navarrete. Researcher Law department
113	Dr David Do Paço, Max Weber fellow (alumnus)
114	Angela Daly, EUI alumna
115	Johanna Reuter, researcher
116	Trajche Panov - RSCAS
117	Lia Brazil, HEC Researcher
118	Théo Fournier researcher
119	Andrea Warnecke, Alumna
120	Patrice Wangen, PhD Researcher at Department of Social and Political Science
121	Victoria Witkowski PHD Researcher
122	Jonas bergan dræge, researcher
123	Mariana Mendes - Researcher
124	Law Researcher
125	Jelle Bruinsma, Researcher
126	Katy Morris, Researcher
127	Giorgio Malet, researcher
128	Sejal Parmar, PhD Law (2003)
129	Esther Wahlen, EUI alumna
130	Oliko Vardishvili, Researcher
131	Milla Vaha, EUI alumna and CEU summer school participant
132	Guilherme Sampaio (Alumnus)
133	Alberto Horst Neidhardt. Department of Law
134	Ieva Bloma, Ph.D. researcher, EUI
135	Ph.D Researcher
136	Xiaohang CHEN, Ph.D Researcher
137	Juan Masullo, Phd Candidate SPS
138	Olga Baranova, HEC, 2003-2008
139	Alina Dobрева, former researcher at the EUI
140	Björn Bremer, Researcher
141	Katarzyna Wazynska-Finck, PhD researcher, Law Department
142	Ronan Condon, Researcher
143	mario spiezio, sps phd researcher
144	Daniel Schulz, Researcher
145	Jonas J. Driedger, Researcher
146	Kateryna Burkush, PhD Researcher (History)
147	Reto Bürgisser, Researcher
148	Ivan Obadic, PhD researcher

149	Kirsten Kamphuis, PhD Researcher HEC
150	PhD Researcher, LAW
151	Sharon Turkington, Doctoral Researcher in History
152	Itzea Goicolea-Amiano (History and Civilization Department, EUI)
153	Florian Idelberger, Researcher
154	Martijn van den Brink, Law
155	Julie Wetterslev, PhD Researcher (International Law)
156	Adam Humphreys, PhD researcher
157	Aschkan Mery, PhD candidate in Economics
158	Brais Alvarez Pereira, PhD Economics
159	Daria Glukhova, 1st year EUI SPS Researcher
160	Daria Glukhova, 1st year EUI SPS Researcher
161	Mark Dizon, PhD researcher
162	Liam McHugh-Russell, Researcher
163	Sabrina D'Andrea - Law
164	Joseph Ganderson, PhD Researcher
165	Elisa Volpi, Doctoral Researcher
166	Elena Sedano Varo, PhD Researcher
167	David Koll, PhD Researcher
168	Gabriel Facchini - Researcher from the Economics Department
169	History and Civilization (PhD researcher)
170	Ismay Milford, Researcher
171	Florian Hertel, Max Weber Fellow 2015/16
172	Alumni
173	Birte Böök, 3rd year researcher in Law
174	Adrienne de Ruiter, PhD student
175	Sofie Moeller, PhD researcher
176	Elias Deutscher - Ph.D. Researcher
177	Irene Sanchez - 3rd year SPS researcher
178	Carolina Lopez-Quiles Centeno, Researcher
179	Chiara Serra, EUI researcher
180	Nedra Cherif - PhD Researcher
181	François Delerue, alumni (Law Dept)
182	Francesca Loria - Ph.D. Researcher, Department of Economics
183	Bruno A Martinho, PhD Researcher (EUI)
184	Nikolaj Broberg - researcher at the EUI
185	Martina Selmi - Department of Political and Social Sciences
186	Lola Guyot Phd student



## APPENDIX

A more comprehensive and frequently renewed list of statements of support can be found on [CEU's webpage](#):

We share here an incomplete list of entities whose statements of support with CEU have come to our attention at the time of writing:

240 leading academics including 15 Nobel Laureates <http://bit.ly/2oqe51F>  
120 North American social scientists and historians working on the region <http://bit.ly/2nGTnE5>  
European Consortium for Political Research <http://bit.ly/2npR9s3>  
US Embassy <http://bit.ly/2nyK0GL>  
US Department of State <http://bit.ly/2oph83x>  
The Political Studies Association (UK) <http://bit.ly/2njrjFh>  
ELTE Social Sciences Doctoral Students <http://bit.ly/2obKTH0>  
ELTE Medieval History Doctoral Students <http://bit.ly/2npjFK8>  
Oktatói Hálózat <http://bit.ly/2oeiXUq>  
Federation of Young European Greens - FYEG <http://bit.ly/2oBRs3b>  
University of Szeged Department of Contemporary History <http://bit.ly/2obKa9v>  
Lutheran Theological University in Budapest Doctoral Students and Candidates <http://bit.ly/2nn7huc>  
Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research, University of Amsterdam <http://bit.ly/2okMhVX>  
University of Vienna Department of Finno-Ugric Studies <http://bit.ly/2nP8ttw>  
University of Michigan Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies <http://bit.ly/2nDbn40>  
Loughborough University Centre for Research in Communication and Culture <http://bit.ly/2oen7LJ>  
Freedom House <http://bit.ly/2nG2s1l>  
Corvinus University Political Science Doctoral School <http://bit.ly/2nQOBGk>  
Community of ELTE Bibó István College for Advanced Studies <http://bit.ly/2of9rj7>  
Janus Pannonius Economic College for Advanced Studies <http://bit.ly/2of9rj7>  
Kepes György College for Advanced Studies <http://bit.ly/2of9rj7>  
Kerényi Károly College for Advanced Studies <http://bit.ly/2of9rj7>  
Liska Tibor College for Advanced Studies <http://bit.ly/2of9rj7>  
Széchenyi István College for Advanced Studies <http://bit.ly/2of9rj7>  
Szent Ignác Jesuit College for Advanced Studies <http://bit.ly/2of9rj7>  
College for Advanced Studies in Social Theory <http://bit.ly/2of9rj7>  
Angelusz Róbert Szakkollégium <http://bit.ly/2oEYjZw>  
Rajk László College for Advanced Studies <http://bit.ly/2mVfolG>  
Institute for Legal Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences <http://bit.ly/2onSIYb>  
McGill Association of University Teachers <http://bit.ly/2oEUYtj>  
Hertie School of Governance <http://bit.ly/2ohhvjl>