

Open Letter on CEU and Academic Freedom To:

H.E. Botond Zákonyi, Ambassador of Hungary to Romania

Zoltán Balog, Minister of Human Capacities, Ministry of Human Capacities, Hungary

László Palkovics, Minister of State for Education, Ministry of Human Capacities,
Hungary

Dear Ambassador Botond Zákonyi, Dear Minister Zoltán Balog, Dear State Minister of Education László Palkovics,

We are a group of social scientists from Babeş-Bolyai University who have been working in the fields of democratization and education policies in East and Central Europe. We have learned with dismay about proposed legislation that would threaten to close Central European University.

Some of us and many of our colleagues and graduates completed their studies at CEU. Lots of us participated in CEU shorter programs and summer university courses aiming at developing the curricula through introducing new courses and updating existing knowledge and know-how. We have also learned a tremendous amount from cooperation with the researchers from this world-class institution. Thus our university has directly benefited from the academic expertise of the CEU.

Central European University has played a significant role in the region's transition from communist dictatorship to democracy, has cultivated a generation of successful politicians, policy makers and academics. Since its foundation, the focus of the university has been advancing democracy in Central and Eastern Europe and in other parts of the world. It would be a very sad outcome if its mission to promote the principles of academic freedom and an open society would be imperiled by the government of a country that is a member of the European Union.

We declare our strong opposition to the proposed legislation against CEU and express our full solidarity with the students, employees, and faculty of Central European University.

Sincerely,

Daniel David, Professor of psychology, BBU Pro-Rector

Cristian Litan, Professor of economics, BBU Pro-Rector

Kinga Sata, Assistant professor of political science, BBU

Gabriel Bădescu, Professor of political science, Director of the Center for the Study of Democracy, BBU

Cosmin Marian, Associate professor of political science, Department Chair, BBU

Zoltán Tibori-Szabó, Associate professor of journalism, Director of the Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, BBU

Remus Anghel, Researcher, BBU and Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities

Levente Salat, Professor of political science, Vice-Dean of the College of Political Science, Public Administration and Communication Sciences, BBU

Răzvan Cherecheş, Professor of public health, Department Chair, BBU

Cristian Meghea, Researcher, BBU and Assistant Professor at Michigan State University

Cristina Bodea, Researcher, BBU and Associate Professor at Michigan State University

Zoltán Pálffy, Assistant professor of political science, BBU

Toma Burean, Assistant professor of political science, BBU

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