



Leopoldina

Nationale Akademie
der Wissenschaften

Leopoldina · Jägerberg 1 · D-06108 Halle (Saale)

Dr Michael Ignatieff
President and Rector
Central European University
Nador u. 9, Monument Building
1051 Budapest
Hungary

- by postal service and email -

**Deutsche Akademie
der Naturforscher Leopoldina e.V.**

Human Rights Committee

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Peter Zenner

Jägerberg 1

DE-06108 Halle (Saale)

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HRC@leopoldina.org

Halle (Saale), 2017-04-11

Dear Rector,

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter on the higher education legislation passed on Tuesday, 4 April 2017, addressed to His Excellency János Áder, President of Hungary, to His Excellency Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary, and to His Excellency Mr Zoltán Balog, Minister of Human Capacities.

Sincerely,

Hans-Peter Zenner

Members of the HRC:

Prof. Dr. H.-P. Zenner, Tübingen/Germany (Chairman), Prof. Dr. H. Aspöck, Vienna/Austria,
Prof. Dr. R. Cohen, Konstanz/Germany, Prof. Dr. B. Gottstein, Bern/Switzerland,
Prof. Dr. U. Klein, Berlin/Germany, Prof. Dr. B. Tag, Zurich/Switzerland,
Prof. Dr. G. Wolters, Konstanz/Germany

Advisors to the HRC:

Prof. Dr. S. Besson, Fribourg/Switzerland, Prof. Dr. F. Steger, Halle (S.)/Germany,
Prof. Dr. C. Tomuschat, Berlin/Germany, Prof. Dr. R. Wolfrum, Heidelberg/Germany



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His Excellency
János Áder
President of the Republic of Hungary
Sándor-Palace
1536 BUDAPEST, Pf. 227
UNGARN

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Halle (Saale), 2017-04-11

Your Excellency,

We contact you in order to express our concern about the new higher education legislation passed on Tuesday, 4 April 2017 that would jeopardise the ability of the Central European University (CEU) to continue its valuable academic enterprise.

The CEU ranks among the world's top 200 universities in eight disciplines; in political science and international studies, it is among the top 50. Not only are CEU faculty members regional leaders in receiving prestigious European Research Council grants, the CEU is also a diverse academic institution that attracts students and faculty from more than 100 countries. Thus, the CEU's standing as a world-class university enhances the international reputation of Hungarian academia. The CEU is a valued international collaborative academic partner. The German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina organises scientific conferences on an international level and also cooperates with academia from CEU.

In our function as the Human Rights Committee of the Leopoldina, we respectfully urge the Hungarian government to enter into consultations with the CEU. We strongly suggest you to work out any existing administrative issues with a view to guaranteeing the high quality academic endeavours of the CEU and other Hungarian academic institutions. It is our understanding that academic freedom is a core value of science institutions in Europe.

Respectfully yours,

Hans-Peter Zenner

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