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Sent: Saturday, April 01, 2017 11:12 AM
To: info@emmi.gov.hu
Cc: orbanviktor@orbanviktor.hu; erkeztetok@me.gov.hu; Support_for_CEU
<Support_for_CEU@ceu.edu>
Subject: Letter of Support

April 1, 2017

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

Institute for Research and Policy Analysis - Romalitico
Skopje, Macedonia

Dear Minister Balog,

We express our grave concern for the situation in Budapest and our Alma Mater. Apart from many other vital factors, Romalitico became an Institute for Research and Policy Analyses thanks to the Central European University. CEU is an institution that made the world look like a global village, hosting brilliant students from all over the globe and assured world-class professorship, mesmerizing facilities and conditions and lifetime experiences. We fully support CEU, the institution made us realize our dreams and become Romalitico.

In twenty-five years, Central European University has established itself as a private international university with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities. It attracts students from 117 countries and faculty from 40. The University as a whole is accredited by the US Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), and its masters and doctoral programs are registered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). Its programs are also certified by appropriate Hungarian authorities and it has complied in full with all Hungarian laws.

In international rankings, some of CEU's departments are rated among the top 50 in the world. CEU also makes Hungary a regional leader in winning highly competitive European Research Council grants. Several of its faculty, in fields as various as medieval studies, network and cognitive science, have won the most prestigious awards in their disciplines.

CEU is a valued member of the international academic community and its presence in Hungary has added to the reputation of Hungarian academic life on the international stage. The government's proposed legislation to alter its statute of operation in Hungary would compromise its academic freedom and set a dangerous precedent for academic life in other countries.

We respectfully urge the government to withdraw the proposed legislation and enter consultation with CEU, bearing in mind the damage such legislation might do to Hungary's well-founded international academic reputation, to its relationships with its European partners and with the United States.

Yours sincerely,

Albert Memeti,

Suad Skenderi,

Deniz Selmani,

Nadire Redjepi,

Elvis Shakjiri,

CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;

Office of the Prime Minister;

Central European University