

Michael Ignatieff
President and Rector
Central European University
Nádor Utca 9
Budapest, Hungary

Allianz Alumni Council
April 25, 2017

Dear President Ignatieff,

As the Allianz Cultural Foundation Alumni Network, we are writing to express our solidarity with Central European University (CEU). This letter shall support you on your way to Brussels this week to call on members of the European Commission and the European Parliament to take measures to protect academic freedom and the integrity of CEU. Our thoughts are with you in the European Parliament's discussion pertaining to Hungary and its relationship with CEU this coming April 26, 2017.

Since 2009, the Allianz Summer Academy has proudly partnered with the CEU to host international exchanges and dynamic dialogues on the future of Europe. As over 200 Alumni of the program from 30+ countries and 17 leading universities, we attest to the academic excellence of CEU and raise our grave concern over the current situation in Hungary. We represent international education and the incredible potential of the open exchange of ideas that sits at the core of democracy. Our Alumni have proudly worked alongside CEU students and faculty for many years—and our Council includes a CEU alumnus. We hail from many leading educational institutions globally including:

- Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic)
- Collegium Civitas (Warsaw, Poland)
- Europa-Universität Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder) (Frankfurt/Oder, Germany)
- Hertie School of Governance (Berlin, Germany)
- Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) (Paris, France)
- Lancaster University (Lancaster, England)
- London School of Economics and Political Science (London, England)
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (Munich, Germany)
- Oxford University (Oxford, England)
- Princeton University (Princeton, USA)
- The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva, Switzerland)
- Universidad Pontificia Comillas de Madrid (Madrid, Spain)
- Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi (Milan, Italy)
- Universitas Carolina Pragensis (Prague, Czech Republic)
- Universitatea "Babeş-Bolyai" (Cluj-Napoca, Romania)
- University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski" (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- Uppsala Universitet (Uppsala, Sweden)

We strongly encourage our fellow Alumni to stand with CEU through the [possible actions you have outlined](#) and to write their respective national representatives with their concerns.

The ties amongst our CEU Alumni and other institutions alike reveal the profound contributions of CEU to the academic community of Europe and the world. As such, we are alarmed by Hungarian legislation that makes the continued operation of CEU in Budapest nearly impossible. We respect Hungary's right to lawfully regulate its universities. There are, however, undeniable indicators of bias against CEU. Such an act threatens not only academic freedom, but the very

basis of democracy in Hungary and the EU. We hope all parties can arrive at a solution that allows for CEU's continued operation in Budapest.

As the Allianz Alumni Council, we call on the Hungarian government, as well as our European representatives, the European Parliament, and the European Commission to defend academic freedom and the integrity of universities operating within the European Union. We are proud to support CEU and stand ready to assist in any way possible.

In Solidarity,

The Allianz Alumni Council

Anna Lena Hohmann
Diana Grebles
Galen Lamphere-Englund
Harald Eisenhauer
Marie Pélissier-Combescure
Viviane Dittrich