

His Excellency, Dr. Janos Ader, President of the Republic of Hungary  
Office of the President of the Republic of Hungary  
1536 Budapest, Pf. 227  
Hungary

April 6, 2017

Dear HE President Ader,

We, the Peace Institute – Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies, Ljubljana, Slovenia, are writing to express solidarity with Central European University. We wish to express concern regarding Bill T/14686 amending Act CCIV of 2011 on national higher education accepted by the Hungarian Parliament on April 4, 2017. The Bill renders CEU's continued operations in Budapest virtually impossible and strikes a severe blow against the academic freedom that enables all universities, including those in Hungary, to flourish. Furthermore, the Bill raises significant legal and constitutional concerns. As a result, we respectfully urge you to refrain from signing the Bill and to refer it to the Constitutional Court of Hungary especially on the following grounds:

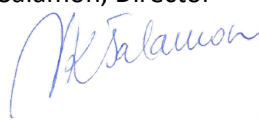

- The law limits the freedom to academic research, studies and education by requiring foreign higher education institutions to operate in Hungary based on a binding international agreement.
- The law further limits the freedom to academic research, studies and education when it requires from foreign higher education institutions having a campus in Hungary to actually provide higher education programs in their country of origin as well.
- It clearly puts CEU in disadvantage when it requires faculty members from OECD member states employed at higher education institutions whose maintainer is a Hungarian foundation to obtain a work permit in Hungary. Since in Hungary only Andrassy University has a Hungarian maintainer, whose faculty is mainly from EU member states, the law is clearly discriminatory against CEU.
- It breaches law-making procedures. The Bill was adopted in an exceptional procedure and without consultation with the affected parties as entitled under law.

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.

We urge you to act on your Presidential prerogative and send the Bill to the Constitutional Court of Hungary where the above concerns regarding its legality and constitutionality can be appropriately reviewed to protect the proud tradition of Hungarian academic life and preserve its autonomy and freedom.

Yours sincerely,

Peace Institute – Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies, Ljubljana  
Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, Director

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CC: Central European University