



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

Department of Philosophy

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CC: [orbanviktor@orbanviktor.hu](mailto:orbanviktor@orbanviktor.hu), [erkeztetok@me.gov.hu](mailto:erkeztetok@me.gov.hu), [Support for CEU@ceu.edu](mailto:Support_for_CEU@ceu.edu)

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

Dear Minister Balog,

I write on behalf of the Philosophy Department of the University of Birmingham, in the United Kingdom

We wish to express in the **strongest terms** our support for the Central European University. Recent proposed changes to CEU's status in Hungary are alarming. They would wipe out the academic freedom essential to CEU's continued operation, and amount to a serious setback for academic freedom in Europe. Since that academic freedom is the lifeblood of a university, the proposed changes to CEU amount to an attack on European higher education itself.

CEU has earned a world-wide reputation for outstanding teaching and research. In our subject, Philosophy, it has become one of the best places in Europe, routinely attracting outstanding research students and faculty (from quite literally all over the world). CEU is accredited by the US Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), and its postgraduate programs are registered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). And our understanding is that its programs are certified by appropriate Hungarian authorities.

CEU is a highly valued member of the international academic community—especially in Philosophy—and its presence in Hungary has added a great deal to the international reputation of Hungarian academic life. Doing away with CEU would be a major blow to Philosophy, and a real set-back to higher education in Europe. Please don't do it!

We urge the government to withdraw the proposed legislation, therefore, and discuss its worries directly with CEU. Surely that would be a more productive way forward: for Hungary, for CEU, and for higher education in Europe.

Sincerely,  
Scott Sturgeon  
Professor of Philosophy

CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;  
Office of the Prime Minister;  
Central European University