

7 April, 2017

H.E. Dr. Janos Ader
President of the Republic of Hungary
Office of the President of the Republic of Hungary
1536 Budapest, Pf. 227
Hungary

Dear H.E. President Ader,

As concerned alumni from Asia, we are writing to express solidarity with Central European University and 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. Further 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 on the following grounds, among others:

- The law limits the freedom to academic research, studies and education as well as to the right to culture 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 discriminates against CEU 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.

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. This amendment threatens to destroy the proud tradition of Hungarian academic life, and its autonomy and freedom. The cause of academic freedom has strong support from private citizens and institutions in Hungary and around the world.

More importantly, we have found in CEU a family that we are proud to call our own. CEU is more than a community of like-minded intellectuals. We are family. Like the 25 generations of alumni that came before us, we came to Budapest as strangers. Welcomed as guest, we were accepted into this family. Our CEU family is one of celebrated differences and diversity. CEU underpins the key ideals of an open society - peaceful coexistence, and strength in diversity. Budapest is our adopted home. This letter of solidarity demonstrates the commitment we hold so dearly. Budapest is our home, and we are no stranger to it.

We respectfully urge you to act on your Presidential prerogative and refrain from signing the Bill and to refer it to the Constitutional Court of Hungary. There is strength in diversity, and Hungary stands in the forefront of a

privileged position. We, the alumni of CEU in Asia, strongly urge you to protect and defend this pearl of great value. Together, there is strength in diversity.

Yours sincerely,

Alumni of CEU in Asia

Full Name	Nationality
Julian Chua Ying Hao	Singapore
Takuro IROHIRA	Japan
Vishnupriya Bhandaram	India
Macario Bag-ayan Lacbawan, Jr.	Philippines
Chuah Ee Chia	Malaysia
Nicha Watthanatidpong	Thailand
Saifullah Nasar	Pakistan
Suluck Lamubol	Thailand
Vu Thi Huong Giang	Vietnam
Yanin Chivakidakarn Huyukorn	Thailand
Aditi Dikey	India
Chaomei Pai	Taiwan
Aigi Kurman	Kazakhstan
Htet M. Lwin	Burma
Gul-i-Hina Shahzad	Pakistan
Sasikumar Sundaram	India
Arpita Sarkar	India
Yuxin Wang	China
Pin Udomcharoenchaikit	Thailand
Jian Zhang	China
Ly Venghong	Cambodian
Nilofer Khan Habibullah	Saudi Arabia/India

Pizwak Imtiaz	Pakistan
Trinh Lien Huong	Viet Nam
Ch ng Sin Yi	Malaysia
Salman Tahir	Pakistan
Margarita Roxas	Philippines
Hana Kim	Republic of Korea (South)
Kei Takahashi	Japan
Andamar Pradipta	Indonesia
Niharika Mallimadugula	India
Aditi Dikey	India
Shaileshwori Sharma	Nepal
Kuo Chia-You	Taiwan
Shuai Yin	China
Chengcheng Wang	China
Hari Narayan Subedi	India / Hungary

CC: Central European University
Department of Legal Constitutional and Administrative Law, Hungary
Hungarian Ambassador to Malaysia
Hungarian Ambassador to Thailand
Hungarian Ambassador to Singapore

