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Trieste, 30/05/2014

To Rector

Prof. Michael Ignatieff

Central European University

Dear Professor Ignatieff,

I'm writing you together with our Academic Senate to express SISSA's concern about the situation of Central European University in Hungary.

CEU is a highly regarded academic institution, with which over the years we have had many fruitful exchanges, of students, postdoctoral and senior researchers. We are now anguished to hear that CEU's very existence may be imperiled by an amendment to the national law on higher education.

Governments should at all times respect the independence of academic institutions, where free intellectual inquiry and open debates are crucial for the long-term development of society.

We hope that the Government of Hungary will realize how damaging the closure of CEU would be for academic life in Hungary, for Hungary and for Europe as a whole, and will opt to comply with the European Parliament Resolution of 17 May 2017 and to ensure the further strengthening of the vibrant activity that CEU has so successfully been able to promote in Budapest.

With my best wishes,

THE DIRECTOR
(Prof. Stefano Ruffo)

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