

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

Danish Centre for Welfare
Studies (DaWS)

Situation of Central European University

Dear Minister Balog,

March 31st, 2017

We, the Danish Centre for Welfare Studies (DaWS), are writing to you to express our concern about the future of the Central European University (CEU). CEU is an important partner for us and we have hosted visiting fellows and students from that institution in the past and are planning to cooperate with CEU in the future. We fear that proposed legislative changes to CEU's status in Hungary would endanger academic freedom, vital for CEU's continued operation in Budapest and would strike a blow against the academic freedom that enables all universities, including those in Hungary, to flourish.

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In the field of welfare studies and political economy, CEU has established itself as one of the top European institutions of research and teaching and is an premier international center for nonpartisan research on Central and Eastern Europe.

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. The government's proposed legislation to alter its statute of operation in Hungary would compromise its academic freedom and set a dangerous precedent for academic life in other countries.

We respectfully urge the government to withdraw the proposed legislation and enter consultation with CEU, bearing in mind the damage such legislation might do to Hungary's well-founded international academic reputation, to its relationships with its European partners and with the United States.

Yours sincerely,


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CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;

Office of the Prime Minister;

Central European University