

Dear colleagues,

on April 4th, Hungary's Parliament passed legislative amendments that have serious implications for CEU and appear indeed to target CEU. I want to express my serious concern about this attack on academic freedom in Hungary in general and on the institutional autonomy and academic integrity of CEU in particular.

I view CEU has a pillar of academic excellence and as a place that has over the years successfully promoted free and open intellectual conversations between proponents of many different backgrounds on important issues affecting Eastern and Central Europe and international and global relations more broadly. All universities by their very nature have a responsibility to protect and foster freedom of opinion and expression and to not only allow for but foster different ideas and mindsets to be explored in an unhindered and sheltered community.

The legislative amendments passed on April 4 clearly infringe on CEU's ability to function properly according to its mandate. CEU has in many academic disciplines brought about academic excellence in research and teaching and thereby contributed to lifting academic standards in Central and Eastern universities. Such scholarly achievements have benefited the Hungarian society as much as they contributed to the well being, prosperity and safety of all of Central and Eastern Europe.

I want to thus express my grave concern about the recent developments concerning CEU and to state my support for any initiatives that challenge the Hungarian Parliament to review and overturn its hastily made decision on April 4th.

Sincerely,

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