



**UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT**

DEAN

April 4/4/2017

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

Your Excellency,

I am addressing the present letter with the property of Representative of an International Partner of Central European University. My Institution and Colleagues are concerned at proposed legislative changes to CEU's status in Hungary. CEU claims that these changes would endanger the academic freedom vital for its continued operation in Budapest and would strike a blow against the academic freedom that enables all universities to flourish. I understand and share this analysis; moreover, I wonder whether changes would harm our long standing strategic cooperation, especially regarding the common International Master in Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management (MESPOM).

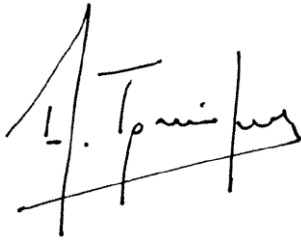
Several elements of CEU organizational identity and academic performance led to a fruitful and successful collaboration between our Institutions, along with Lund University and University of Manchester, since early '00s. In fact, CEU has established itself as a private international university with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social and environmental sciences and humanities. Our Consortium attracts students from 117 countries and faculty from 40. The University as a whole is accredited by the US Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), and its masters and doctoral programs are registered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). Its programs are also certified by appropriate Hungarian authorities and it has complied in full with all Hungarian laws. The quality of CEU rankings helped us to overcome strict national regulations and criteria on International cooperation and to establish MESPOM as a forefront academic activity of my Institution.

I do understand that 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. I do realize that 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 your 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Troumbis', written over a horizontal line.

Professor Andreas Y. Troumbis
Dean, School of the Environment
Former Rector, University of the Aegean

CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;

Office of the Prime Minister;

Central European University