

His Excellency, Dr. Janos Ader, President of the Republic of Hungary
Office of the President of the Republic
1536 Budapest, Pf. 227
Hungary
Via e-mail: info@emmi.gov.hu

Berlin, 6 April 2017

Dear Mr. President,

The Hertie School of Governance in Berlin and Sciences Po in Paris jointly oppose the Hungarian government's legislation that would effectively shut down the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest. We strongly urge you, Mr. President, not to sign the legislation, which the Hungarian Parliament has now passed.

By requiring foreign universities in Hungary to have a campus in their home country, the government led by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán clearly aims to impair and disenfranchise CEU and limit freedoms essential for academic work. The amendments to the National Higher Education Act would force the university into the crippling financial burden of opening a campus in New York state by February 2018. Furthermore, the government's public accusations that the CEU was previously non-compliant with the law is without warrant; CEU has always been certified by the Hungarian Accreditation Committee and can prove its correct compliance with all previous regulations. We stand with CEU President Michael Ignatieff in describing this legislation as a discriminatory act targeted specifically at CEU, and we echo his request that you not sign this legislation and will support him and CEU in seeking any necessary legal remedies.

Since its founding in 1991 by Hungarian-born American investor and philanthropist George Soros, CEU has contributed greatly to the global public policy debate. With faculty and students from around the world, and deep roots in Hungarian society and academic life, the university is a vital independent centre of knowledge and research in Central Europe and beyond. As members of the academic community, we strongly urge you to consider our profound concerns and not to sign the legislation. We encourage you and the Hungarian government to find a solution that allows the university to continue in Budapest.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Helmut K. Anheier
President
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