

Dear Friends,

For the past week, we have stood together for the cause of academic freedom for CEU, our fellow Hungarian institutions, and educators, scholars, and students worldwide.

The Hungarian Parliament has now passed amendments to the national law on higher education, which CEU forcefully condemns.

As German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said to the European Parliament yesterday:

"... if we want to be a lighthouse in the world for the rule of law and for human rights, then we cannot ignore when these foundations are shaken... Europe, then, must not be silent, when civil society, even academia - as now at Central European University in Budapest - are deprived of the air to breathe."

We are inspired by how rapidly - even in these partisan times - lovers of freedom have come together around the principle that self-governing institutions should be left to govern themselves free of state interference. The global response in vigorous defense of free inquiry, free exchange of knowledge, and free institutions of learning has encouraged us and continues to energize our cause.

This fight is not over. We have called upon President Ader not to sign the new legislation. We will continue to contest its constitutionality, and we will seek all available legal remedies. Please know that CEU will maintain the continuity of its teaching and research, its degree programs, and its service to the community, without interruption.

We are deeply grateful for your support. For further updates, please visit the #IstandwithCEU page.

Best regards,

Michael Ignatieff, Rector & President

*Leon Botstein, Chair, CEU Board of Trustees*

*"Research and education are international. The university, as an institution Universitas, has embodied this for 900 years. Universities in Hungary participate in this global community in many different ways. Their recognition benefits Hungary. This represents CEU's value to the country and Hungarian academic life. It is in our fundamental interest that it continue its activities. It is in our fundamental interest as well that the legal regulation of higher education conform to the Constitution."*

*– Laszlo Solyom, President of Hungary (2005-2010) in a statement issued April 3, 2017*

*"In trying to close Central European University, Hungary is undermining democracy and hurting its future. We must speak out. #IstandwithCEU"*