

Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf ✉ 40204 Düsseldorf

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

Dear Minister Balog,

As professor of medieval history and chairwomen of the Association of German Historians (VHD) I do want to express solidarity with the Central European University and express my deep concern at the proposed legislative changes to CEU's status in Hungary. The Association of German Historians is one of Europe's largest Associations in Humanities and represents more than 3000 members. These changes would endanger the academic freedom that is 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.

We have strong relationships with CEU and benefit from the high expertise of its scholars in our field. They contribute significantly to knowledge and enrich international scientific debates. In twenty-five years, Central European University has established itself as a private international university with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities. It attracts many students from Germany who create awareness of the understanding of Hungarian History and its important role within Europe and the World.

In international rankings, some of CEU's departments are rated among the top 50 in the world. CEU also makes Hungary a regional leader by having won highly competitive grants of the European Research Council. Several members of its faculty, in fields as various as medieval studies, network and cognitive science, have won the most prestigious awards in their disciplines.

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 will do to Hungary's well-founded international academic reputation, to its relationships with its European partners, and with the United States.

Yours sincerely,

Eva Schlotheuber

CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;  
Office of the Prime Minister;  
Central European University

**Vorsitzende des Verbandes der  
Historiker und Historikerinnen  
Deutschlands**

**Lehrstuhl für Mittelalterliche  
Geschichte I  
Prof. Dr. Eva Schlotheuber  
Univ.-Prof.**

Telefon 0211/81-12938  
Telefax 0211/81-11475  
schlotheuber@phil.uni-  
duesseldorf.de

**Düsseldorf, April 2, 2017**

**Heinrich-Heine-Universität  
Düsseldorf**  
Universitätsstraße 1  
40225 Düsseldorf  
Gebäude 23.31  
Ebene 06 Raum 68  
www.uni-duesseldorf.de