



European Association for Comparative Economic Studies



Dear Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Minister Zoltán Balog,

The news about the proposed legislation that may make difficult or impossible for foreign academic institutions in Hungary, including the internationally prestigious Central European University in Budapest - to continue operating in Hungary induced us to express our serious concern in this regard.

We think this step would have very negative consequences on academic freedom in your country, on the fundamental importance of having an open international academic environment and on the quality of tertiary education not only in Hungary, but also in the larger post-socialist region.

Our association, established in 1991, represents more than 300 scholars of comparative economics from all over the world, many of whom have cooperated or co-authored scientific articles or books with CEU researchers or have relied on their research results. We think the difficulties placed on academic freedom of CEU or any other qualified academic institution or their impossibility to operate in Hungary would represent a very serious loss not only to our but also to the world's scientific community.

Sincerely,

Jens Hölscher, University of Bournemouth

Jürgen Jerger, University of Regensburg, IOS Regensburg

David M. Kemme, University of Memphis

Michael Keren, Hebrew University

Hartmut Lehmann, University of Bologna

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