



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

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By email: miniszter@emmi.gov.hu

March 31, 2017

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

Dear Minister Balog,

On behalf of the 70,000 academic staff members of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, we are writing to express our serious concern regarding the recently proposed legislative changes that threaten the ongoing operations of the internationally prestigious Central European University (CEU).

The CEU welcomes students, faculty, and staff from around the world, bringing new knowledge, talent, and skills to higher education and research to the benefit of Hungary and over 100 countries that are part of the CEU community. For 25 years, CEU has played a global role in advancing knowledge and scientific inquiry. However, the proposed amendments to Act CCIV on National Higher Education, if passed, will make the university's continued operation as a free and independent international graduate university impossible.

Academic freedom and university autonomy are fundamental pillars of all democratic societies. The proposed legislative changes would undermine those pillars and set a dangerous precedent for other institutions in Hungary. We strongly urge you to immediately withdraw the changes.

Yours sincerely,

James Compton
President

David Robinson
Executive Director

cc: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary
Dr. Michael Ignatieff, President and Rector, Central European University
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada