



Institut für Klimaschutz, Energie und Mobilität
Institute for Climate Protection, Energy and Mobility

Institut für Klimaschutz, Energie & Mobilität | Magazinstraße 15-16 | 10179 Berlin

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

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

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Aleksandra Novikova, PhD ☎ +49 (0)30 / 408 18 70-12

Berlin, 03.04.2017

Statement of support to Central European University (CEU)

Dear Minister Balog,

I am writing to express my concern at proposed legislative changes to the status of Central European University (CEU) that would prevent CEU's continued operation in Hungary.

Running post-graduate programs social sciences and humanities, CEU has created a generation of leaders in international and domestic politics, science, businesses, and other societal institutions. CEU alumni have served as presidents, ministers, and other governmental officials in a few countries, taken posts as heads and officers of international and country-level NGOs including the UN system, shown breakthrough results in science, and taken flagship actions in leading the world against environmental disasters. Therefore, the closure of CEU would be a big loss for Hungary and the European Union, if not for the world. As a scientist focusing on sustainable energy development and climate change mitigation, I observe what a huge difference have CEU, its staff and alumni made in my field, and this is why I call the Hungarian government to revise the legislation that may prevent CEU to deliver this excellence.

**Institut für Klimaschutz,
Energie und Mobilität – Recht,
Ökonomie und Politik e.V.**

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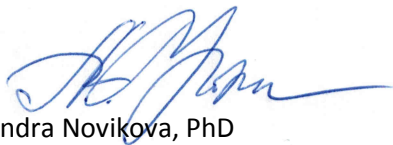
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Universität Greifswald

Prof. Dr. Thorsten Beckers
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Within the twenty-five year history of its existence, CEU has promoted such values as democracy, education, human rights, and freedom. These values are a backbone of the European Union, the open society, and globalization. Twenty-five years ago Central and Eastern Europe, including Hungary, were very much behind in building the society around these values. The CEU programs in the areas of public policy, environmental policy, gender studies, legal studies, nationalism studies, economics, history, international relations, philosophy, and others have helped to fill this gap.

The closure of CEU will be a big step back for the country and the region, which have made so many successful steps to overcome the authoritarian regimes dominating them in the last century. As a mother, scientist, and world citizen, I am very much concerned about the future of Hungary, which became my second motherland, where I spent eight years of my youth that changed my life. Therefore, I respectfully call the Government of Hungary to revise its legislation and avoid taking any legislative action that would compromise CEU's operations and independence. This is a "no go" for the country of the European Union, where democratic values and freedom are the key values.

Yours sincerely,



Aleksandra Novikova, PhD

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and
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