

CESAER

Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán
President of the European Commission
President of the European Council
President of the European Parliament

CONCERNS: Call to safeguard academic freedom and institutional autonomy in Hungary
DATE: 5th October 2018

Your Excellencies,

With this letter, I wish to inform you about the serious concerns from the universities of Science and Technology (S&T) united within [CESAER](#) - [the strong and united voice of universities of S&T in Europe](#). These concerns are with respect to ongoing attacks on academic freedom and institutional autonomy in Hungary. We are joining many other concerned organisations including the European Parliament (EP), in its [call upon the Council](#) dated 12th September, the European University Association (EUA), with its [statement](#) dated 12th September, and the Network of University Teachers, with its [petition](#) dated 13th August.

We urge you to fully respect academic freedom and institutional autonomy in this member state of the European Union and to assure that academic institutions are fully respected under the Hungarian constitution and laws.

The list of serious incidents is growing as, in addition to the attempts to close the Central European University (CEU) and the recent actions launched against the Centre for Social Sciences (MTA TK) of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), this summer the Hungarian ministries of Human Resources and of Justice presented a draft decree to the Hungarian Rectors' Conference (MRK) calling for the abolition of master programmes in gender studies at Hungarian universities such as are currently being offered by the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) and CEU. These continuous efforts of the Hungarian government to close CEU and discredit gender research and education for political goals are totally unacceptable. We urge you to safeguard the following common (European) values in Hungary:

- research integrity, academic freedom and institutional autonomy as laid down in the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#), the [European Charter for Researchers and a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](#), the [Lima Declaration on Academic Freedom and Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education](#), the [Utrecht Declaration on Academic-Freedom](#) and the [Magna Charta Universitatum](#);
- sustainable peace and prosperity incorporating respect for the rule of law and human rights, democratic citizenship, evidence-based policy making and the free circulation of knowledge, as laid down in the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#), the [Charter of the United Nations](#), the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), the [European Convention on Human Rights](#) and the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#).

Yours sincerely,



Sir Jim McDonald
Principal & Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde
President of CESAER