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Mr. Zoltán Balog

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**Department of Philosophy
Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies
of Science (I²SoS)
Bielefeld University, Germany**

Bielefeld, April 3, 2017

Subject: CEU: Proposed legislative changes

Dear Minister Balog:

The Department of Philosophy and the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Science (I²SoS) at Bielefeld University, Germany, are deeply worried about the proposed changes of the status and the working conditions of the Central European University in Hungary. We consider the announced legislative changes as being incompatible with the commitment to liberal education in an international spirit. We are particularly concerned since the CEU has made a name for itself in the area of science studies, which represents an important area of specialization at Bielefeld University as well. Actually, CEU is the major player in this area in the whole of Central Europe.

Speaking more generally, CEU is the academic institution in Central Europe with the highest visibility in and the largest impact on academic life in the entire western world. It is also recognized as a beacon of intellectual openness and academic freedom. The proposed alteration of its legal status would make it impossible for CEU to continue as a mark of excellence in the Hungarian university system. The envisaged legislative changes are likely to undermine the international reputation of the Hungarian academic community.

The Department of Philosophy and the Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies of Science at Bielefeld University respectfully request that the Hungarian government retract the proposed legislation. We call upon you to preserve the Central European University as an academic highlight in Hungary and to enter into a serious dialog with this highly reputed institution.

On behalf of the Department and the Institute

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Carrier', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Dr. Martin Carrier

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