



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

Madrid, April 4, 2017

Dear Minister Balog,

As President of the *Asociación Española de Estudios Hebreos y Judíos (AEEHJ)* (*Spanish Association of Hebrew and Jewish Studies*), I want to express my deepest concern about the proposed legislative changes in the status of the Central European University.

We understand that these changes would endanger the future existence of this outstanding institution with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities. The CEU has contributed to enrich European academic culture, has served as a center of academic innovation and has always stood as a reliable partner of universities across Europe and beyond.

In our field, academic Jewish Studies, the CEU has developed an extraordinary and ambitious programme to train students and academics to the highest standards. This programme has contributed to a deeper knowledge of the Jews in East and Central Europe. Spanish people feel very close to Hungarian people, because both have a common rich and diverse Jewish cultural heritage. We think that it is our commitment to preserve our Jewish heritage as part of our own culture. In this sense, the Jewish programme of the CEU is an academic brand of considerable value, which the government should not endanger, but protect.

We would like to express our solidarity with the Central European University and call upon you to reconsider the proposed legislation. Such a decision would definitely impoverish the Hungarian and the European landscape in Jewish Studies, and undoubtedly constitute a major loss also in the many other disciplines in which the CEU excels.

We respectfully urge the government to withdraw the proposed legislation and enter consultation with CEU, bearing in mind the damage such legislation might do to Hungary's well-founded international academic reputation, to its relationships with its European partners and with the United States.

Yours sincerely

ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE
ESTUDIOS HEBREOS Y JUDÍOS
NRNA 162588 - C.I.F. G-81827354
Universidad de Granada

Mariano Gómez Aranda, President of the AEEHJ
Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales del CSIC. Albasanz 26-28. Madrid 28037. Spain

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