

Warsaw, 3rd April 2017

His Excellency Viktor Orban  
The Prime Minister of Hungary  
The Prime Minister's Office  
1357 Budapest, Pf. 6.  
E-mail: [erkeztetok@me.gov.hu](mailto:erkeztetok@me.gov.hu)

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned Polish historians and social scientists, have received with deep sorrow and utter dismay a news about a bill, submitted to the Hungarian Parliament by the Government of Hungary, which introduces changes in the Higher Education Law that – if accepted – will make impossible the operation of the Central European University in Hungary. As an educational and scientific institution, the Central European University has earned a mark of excellence on the world highest level. Many of us have had a privilege to visit the CEU as students or visiting lectures, or simply as conference participants. We were always impressed by the unique atmosphere, activity and intellectual curiosity that reigned at the CEU and resulted in so many fascinating ideas, projects and achievements. As an educational institution, the CEU has had an enormous success in bringing together students of various nationalities and offering them the highest educational standards. In historiography, the CEU gave birth to various initiatives of international intellectual co-operation that resulted in innovative researches both in the field of Medieval and Modern History. The CEU is an important and internationally visible element of intellectual life both in Hungary and in the academic community at large.

Taking into account the importance of developing the mutual intellectual relations between Poland and Hungary we are particularly surprised by the attempt to close an institution that so meaningfully contributes to the Polish-Hungarian contacts. We appeal to the Government of Hungary to refrain once and for all from any action that may harm the CEU in its mission of developing and disseminating knowledge of the highest standards. In particular we ask for the revocation of the aforementioned bill.

The copy of this letter has been sent to all the historical institutes at the universities and other institutions of higher education in Poland.

Prof. dr hab. Włodzimierz Borodziej, Historical Institute, Warsaw University  
Anna Brus, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw  
Dr hab. Błażej Brzostek, Professor at the Historical Institute, Warsaw University  
Prof. dr hab. Andrzej Chwalba, Institute of History, Jagiellonian University, Cracow  
Dr Iwona Dadej, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw  
Prof. dr hab. Ewa Domańska, Institute of History, Poznań University  
Prof. dr hab. Bogusław Dybaś, Director of the Polish Academy of Sciences Scientific Center in Vienna  
Dr hab. Mirosław Filipowicz, Professor at the Institute of History, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin  
Dr hab. Marek Gensler, Professor and Vice-dean at the Faculty of Philosophy and History, Łódź University

Dr hab. Maciej Górny, Professor at the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Editor-in-Chief of the "Acta Poloniae Historica"

Prof. dr hab. Maciej Janowski, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Dr Marcin Jarząbek, Institute of History, Jagiellonian University, Cracow

Dr Tomasz Hen-Konarski, European University Institute, Florence

Dr hab. Małgorzata Karpińska, Professor and Dean at the Faculty of History, Warsaw University

Prof. dr hab. Ryszard Kasperowicz, Institute of Art History, Warsaw University

Prof. dr hab. Jerzy Kochanowski, Historical Institute, Warsaw University

Dr Wojciech Kozłowski, Deputy Director, Witold Pilecki Center for Totalitarian Studies, Warsaw

Prof. dr hab. Wojciech Kriegseisen, Director of the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Piotr Kuligowski, Ph.D candidate, Poznań University

Dr Mariusz Kulik, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Dr Adam Kożuchowski, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Dr Grzegorz Krzywiec, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Dr Aleksander Łupienko, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Dr Sylwia Kuźma-Markowska, American Studies Center, Warsaw University

Prof. dr hab. Paweł Machcewicz, Director of the Museum of the Second World War, Gdańsk

Prof. dr hab. Halina Manikowska, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Dr hab. Adam Manikowski, Professor at the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Wiktor Marzec, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology

Central European University, Budapest

Prof. dr hab. Włodzimierz Mędrzecki, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Dr hab. Magdalena Micińska, Professor at the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Dr Joanna Nalewajko-Kulik, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Dr hab. Paweł Rodak, Professor at the Centre de Civilisation Polonaise Paris-Sorbonne and Instytut Kultury Polskiej, Warsaw University.

Dr hab. Zbigniew Romek, Professor at the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Dr hab. Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska, Łódź University/ German Historical Institute in Warsaw

Dr hab. Marek Słoń, Professor at the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Dr Łukasz Sommer, Faculty of Neophilology, Warsaw University

Dr Anna Sosnowska, American Studies Center, Warsaw University

Dr hab. Paweł Sowiński, Professor at the Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Prof. dr hab. Rafał Stobiecki, Institute of History, Łódź University

Prof. dr hab. Dariusz Stola, Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences/ Director of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw

Dr hab. Tomasz Stryjek, Professor at the Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Dr Kamil Śmiechowski, Institute of History, Łódź University

Prof. dr hab. Michał Tymowski, Historical Institute, Warsaw University (emeritus)

Dr Joanna Wawrzyniak, Institute of Sociology, Warsaw University

Piotr Wciślik, PhD Candidate, Central European University, Budapest

Dr Marcin Wolniewicz, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw