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European Association of Social Anthropologists
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux

Carlos Moedas
Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation
European Commission

cc.: Manuel Aleixo

President

Valeria Siniscalchi
http://www.easaonline.org

27 April 2017

Dear Sir,

It was with great concern and disappointment that EASA (the European Association of Social Anthropologists) recently learned that CEU (Central European University) in Budapest is at risk, owing to proposed legislative changes which would, if passed, make it impossible for the CEU to continue its activities in Hungary.

The Central European University is a young institution founded only 25 years ago. In this short period, it has rapidly established itself as a major regional centre for research and higher education in the humanities and social sciences. Its anthropology programme, which is the special concern of EASA, is brilliant and has produced outstanding young scholars, many of whom now hold academic positions in excellent universities. The CEU complies with all the relevant Hungarian laws, and its programmes have been certified by Hungarian authorities.

Scientific research is by definition international, and the CEU is a shining example of this, in that its students come from more than a hundred countries, its academic staff from about 40 countries. The CEU is a major actor in the European and global conversation about society and humanity, and it is a source of pride in the Hungarian intellectual and academic communities.

We strongly feel that it would be a mistake to force the CEU to terminate its activities in Hungary. The international academic community would suffer, but more importantly, we would lose a lively centre for research and teaching in the heart of Central Europe. On behalf of EASA, we respectfully urge the European Commission to put appropriate pressure on the Hungarian authorities in order that the important scientific research and teaching taking place at CEU can continue.

Yours sincerely,

Valeria Siniscalchi
President, EASA

Thomas Hylland Eriksen
Vice-President, EASA