

*Press release*

**Declaration of the Slovak Economic Association about the  
imminent threat to academic freedoms that remain key for  
the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest**

For immediate release

31. 3. 2017

**The Board of Directors of the Slovak Economic Association herewith expresses its solidarity with the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest and a deep concern in connection with the proposed legislative changes that directly threaten academic freedoms and CEU's ability to stay in Budapest.**

Academic freedoms are essential for all universities to be able them to fulfil their mission.

Central European University in Budapest, offering programs accredited in Hungary and in the United States, enabled many Slovaks, including several members of the Slovak Economic Association, to acquire a high quality education and apply it for the benefit of the whole society. In international rankings, the Central European University in Budapest belongs among the 50 best universities in the world in several fields.

The Central European University's contribution to the society, science and especially academia in Hungary, Slovakia, Central Europe, and the world is unquestionable. The Central European University makes the whole of Central Europe more visible on the international stage.

The proposed legislation directly threatens academic freedoms in Hungary and creates a dangerous precedent for all academic institutions in Hungary and worldwide.

The Board of Directors of the Slovak Economic Association therefore respectfully but urgently asks the authors of said legislation to withdraw their proposal, and to consult any further legislative proposals with the Central European University in Budapest and other concerned universities.

Done in Bratislava, 31. 3. 2017

Board of Directors of the Slovak Economic Association:

Martin Kahanec (chair)

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The Slovak Economic Association (SEA) is a voluntary scientific and professional association of economists, registered as a civil association. The association aims to contribute to the development and popularization of economic science by supporting basic and applied research. The SEA also supports the improvement of economic education in Slovakia with special emphasis on the education of young talents. Membership in the association is open to research economists, practitioners, students and PhD candidates, and expert community. The association also has 24 Fellows, i.e. members who have high-quality scientific publications in the field of economics or significantly contributed to the development of economic science in Slovakia.

In January 2017 the Slovak Economic Association was accepted as a full member of the International Economic Association (IEA), the global federation of national economic association, founded in 1950 on to further the development of economic science and economic policy. Membership in the IEA is an international recognition of the Slovak Economic Association as a representative of the community of Slovak economists. Each country can be represented in the IEA by only one economic association.

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